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ABSTRACT

In the early part of 1999, the Institute for Children and Poverty surveyed almost 2,000 families with more than 4,000 children in 24 locations to assess the state of homeless children across the United States. This report tells their story. Families account for almost 40% of U.S. homeless people, and in some cities that percentage is even higher. Homeless families with children are also the fastest growing segment of the population. In New York City, family homelessness has increased 500% over the past two decades, and in Denver, Colorado, the number of homeless children rose over 300%. The demand for emergency shelter has increased 50% overall since 1995, and 15% in the last year alone. The number of homeless children is higher than at any other time since the Depression. An appendix contains tables of data about homeless children in the United States and 24 urban areas and states. (Contains 15 figures and 43 tables.) (SLD)

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HOMELESS IN AMERICA: A CHILDREN'S STORY

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HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS
AND
THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND POVERTY

Leonard N. Stern
Founder/Chairman

Ralph Nunez, Ph.D.
President/CEO

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Homeless in America:
A Children's Story
Part One

Homes for the Homeless

and

The Institute for Children and Poverty

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The Institute for Children and Poverty is the research and training division of Homes for the Homeless (HFH), which operates residential and family-based educational programs at its four American Family Inns in New York City. HFH functions on the premise that homelessness is a children's issue, a family issue, and an education issue. Each day, these transitional housing facilities provide education, job readiness training, and support services to 540 families and over 1,000 children. Since its inception in 1986, HFH has served 17,100 families and 29,200 children.

The Institute works to provide strategies to combat the impact of homelessness and poverty on the lives of children and their families. The Institute provides program-based curricula, training, and technical assistance in dozens of urban, suburban, and rural communities across the country.

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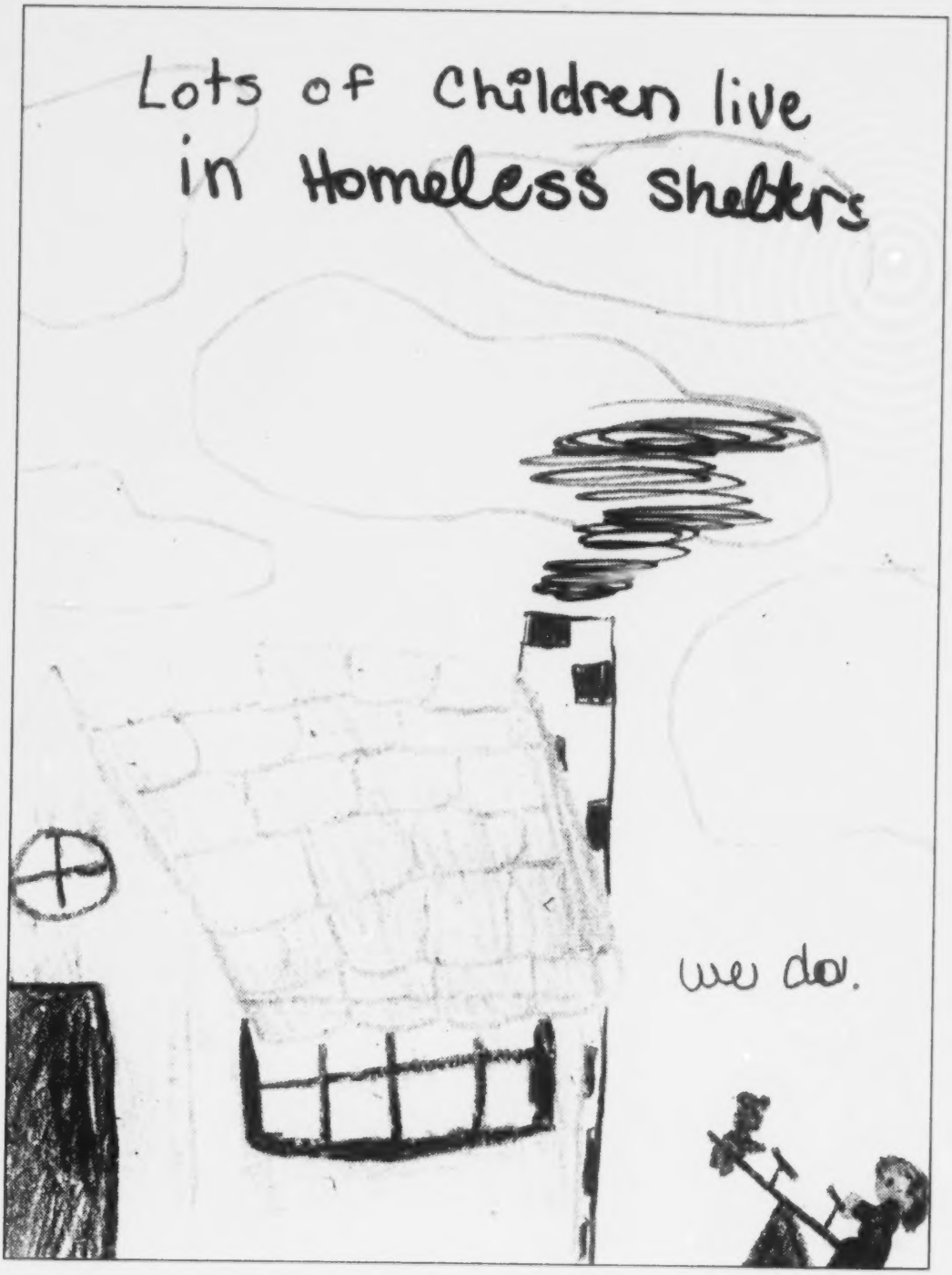


Drawing by Homeless 10-year-old Girl
Salem-Keizer Public Schools Homeless Program, Salem, OR

Executive Summary

Each night across America more than one million children have no place to call home. Many live in shelters or motels. Some return from school to sleep in abandoned buildings, while others live out of their family's car. Some share the overcrowded apartments of friends or relatives; some live in tents on campgrounds, others on the streets. They move from place to place in every city, suburb, town, and rural area across the land, and year after year their numbers grow. These children are America's hidden homeless.

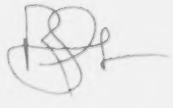
They represent a new poverty. Families account for almost forty percent (38%) of America's homeless. In some cities, that percentage is even higher—seventy-seven percent (77%) in Trenton, NJ, and sixty-eight percent (68%) in Philadelphia, PA. Roughly two-thirds of the individuals in these families are children.

They are also the *fastest* growing segment of the homeless population. Their numbers have skyrocketed over the last two decades. In New York, NY, family homelessness has increased five hundred percent—from 1,000 to more than 5,000 families today—while in Denver, CO, the number of homeless children rose over three hundred percent. Not surprisingly, the demand for emergency shelter by families with children has increased fifty percent since 1995 and fifteen percent in the last year alone.

Despite the lowest unemployment rate in thirty years and a booming stock market, the number of homeless children today is higher than at any other time since the Great Depression. Clearly, the measure of success or failure as a nation cannot be determined solely by market levels, unemployment rates, and declining welfare rolls, but rather by the health, well-being, and lives of our children. As we enter a new century, we need to understand why family homelessness is so persistent, and we need to focus on and remedy the impacts it is having on America's most vulnerable—its children.

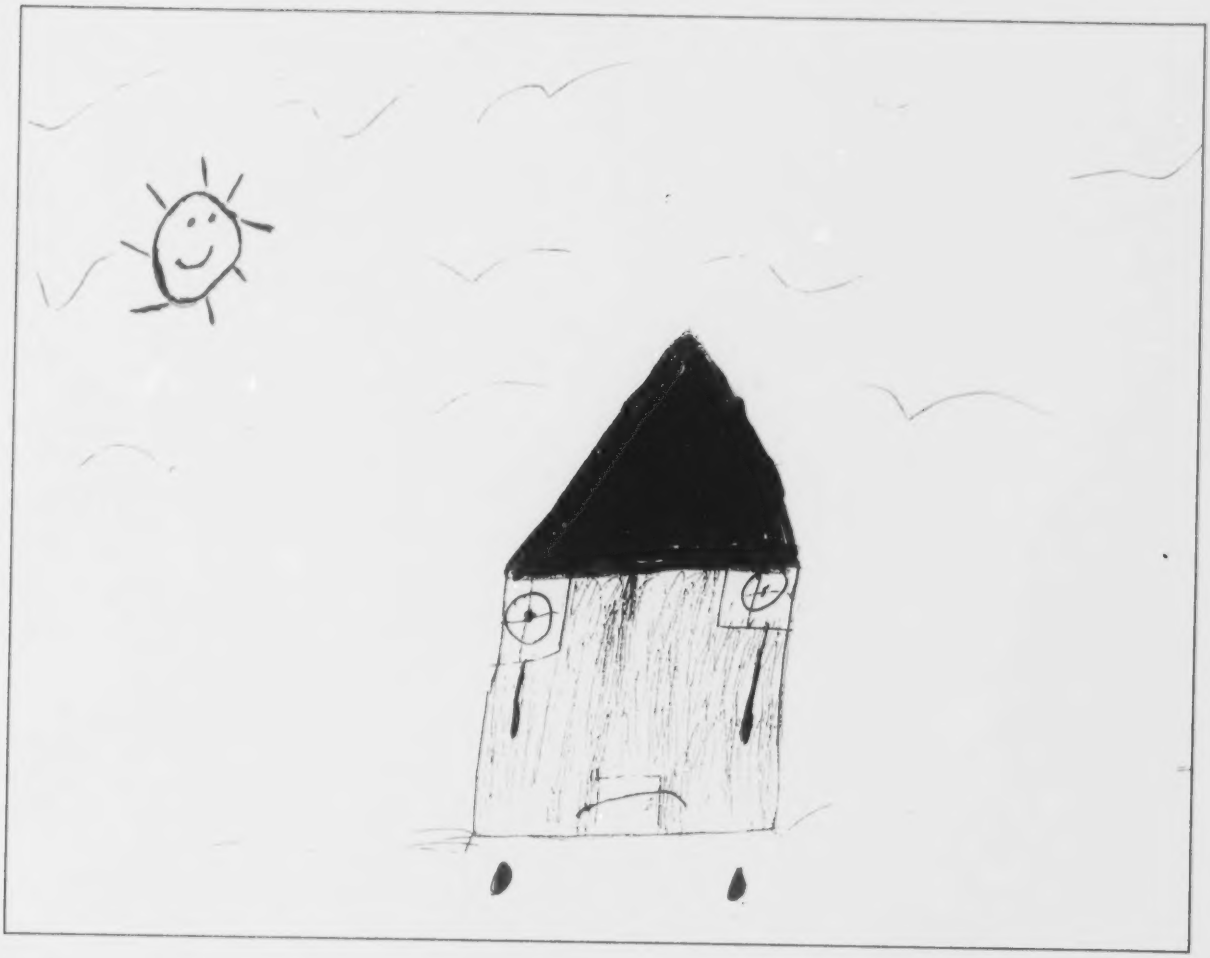
As a step in that direction, throughout the early part of 1999, the Institute for Children and Poverty surveyed almost 2,000 families with more than 4,000 children in twenty-four locations to assess the state of homeless children across America. This report is their story—a story of constant upheaval, educational struggles, declining health, and violence. It is also a story of opportunity for those with the will and the power to influence policy and create change.

Leonard N. Stern
Founder/Chair



Ralph Nunez, Ph.D.
President/CEO

"My House is crying today because we won't be coming home tonight."



Drawing by Homeless 7-year-old Boy, TX

Charlie's Story

Charlie is seven years old. He and his mother and brother became homeless for the second time ten months ago, just after he started second grade. This time, they were able to get a room in a shelter. Charlie hates his new home; not having any privacy makes him angry and he cringes when the school bus stops to pick him up out front, knowing the other children will pick on him. He's hungry, too. The food at the shelter makes his stomach hurt. But it is better than the last time, when no shelter space was available and his whole family had to move into his aunt and uncle's small apartment, and safer than the time before, when they were living with his mother's boyfriend. And for once, being little wasn't so bad—he got to stay with his mother while his thirteen-year-old brother, Tommy, had to go to the singles shelter.

Photo by Todd Barbour

Joey, Carlos, Marcus, and Charlie

Still, he misses his friends from his old neighborhood. The kids at his new school aren't nearly as nice as his classmates at his old school. One of the children who rides his bus is also in his class and told other students where Charlie lives. Now no one wants to play with him during recess. Sometimes, Charlie wishes life were different.

Charlie is only one of over a million children who are homeless in America today and his story is common to many of them. Children like Charlie face the brutal realities of...

- *growing up in shelters, welfare hotels, or on the streets;*
- *repeating grades in school at twice the national rate;*
- *declining health during homelessness;*
- *going hungry at four and a half times the national rate; and*
- *a one in three chance of witnessing violence.*

When Homes for the Homeless began working with homeless families thirteen years ago, it was difficult to imagine that family homelessness could get worse. Today, however, the faces of the parents and children entering shelters are younger and filled with greater despair. The faces of those children appear on the pages that follow so that stories like Charlie's are not ignored.

Hey, I'm Here!

Loud Yokes.
Kids Fighting. Mom's yelling.
Pots clanging. Staff's angry.
Lots of different families.
Another new volunteer.
There's people everywhere, all
around me.

I sit here by myself.
Nothing around me seems real
Does anyone see me?
Hey, I'm here!

Poem by Homeless 10-year-old Girl
Salem-Keizer Public Schools Homeless Program, Salem, OR

Joseph and Cristina
American Family Inn

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The State of Homeless Children in America

In the winter and spring of 1999, the Institute for Children and Poverty joined with almost 200 organizations in over twenty cities to assess the state of homeless children in America. Nearly 2,000 homeless families, with more than 4,000 homeless children, were surveyed in the following locations:

Atlanta, GA
Baltimore, MD
Bucks County, PA
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
Denver, CO
Los Angeles, CA
Louisiana (statewide)
Maryland (statewide)
Memphis, TN
Miami, FL
Nevada (statewide)
Newark, NJ
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Norman, OK
Philadelphia, PA
Phoenix, AZ
Salem/Eugene, OR
Seattle, WA
South Bend, IN
St. Louis, MO
Trenton, NJ
Tulsa, OK

For most children, homelessness is not a brief or singular experience; it is a period fraught with educational and emotional setbacks that can last for years. Without permanent housing, they are forced to endure frequent moves—from motels to the homes of relatives and friends to shelters and back again. These children are America's nomads—moving at a rate sixteen times greater than that of the average American family.[1]

POINT *"Me and my family have moved three times this year. I have two kids who changed school twice and one who can't start."* (Homeless Parent, New York, NY)

FACT *Homeless families relocate sixteen times more than the typical American family.*

Table 1: Children's Duration and Frequency of Homelessness

	Homeless Children			Homeless Children	
Location	*Avg. Duration in Months*	*% Homeless > Once*	*Location*	*Avg. Duration in Months*	*% Homeless > Once*
Nationwide	10	27	Nationwide	10	27
Atlanta, GA	7	17	New Orleans, LA	11	25
Baltimore, MD	7	30	New York, NY	9	12
Bucks Co., PA	13	17	Norman, OK	8	49
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	11	22	Philadelphia, PA	11	17
Denver, CO	4	29	Phoenix, AZ	10	42
Los Angeles, CA	8	23	Richmond, VA	6	50
Louisiana (statewide)	14	30	Salem/Eugene, OR	5	33
Maryland (statewide)	6	34	Seattle, WA	12	30
Memphis, TN	8	28	South Bend, IN	8	27
Miami, FL	10	25	St. Louis, MO	11	22
Nevada (statewide)	25	53	Trenton, NJ	9	23
Newark, NJ	7	30	Tulsa, OK	4	34

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

POVERTY NOMADS

Chronic Homelessness and Multiple Moves

On average, children are homeless ten months at a time, or an entire school year. This is generally not an isolated experience; over one-quarter of children (27%) have been homeless at least once before. (See Table 1)

POINT *"I've been homeless two times now. My kids don't like it but there is nothing I can do."* (Homeless Parent, New York, NY)

FACT *More than one-quarter of all homeless children have been homeless more than once.*

Frankie, Jamal, and Sara

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Additionally, in one year, the typical homeless family lives in three different residences. Virtually all families (93%) relocate at least once in a year and one out of five (20%) moves three or more times. In Norman and Tulsa, OK, and Seattle, WA, children in more than one-third of homeless families (41%, 33%, and 35% respectively) move every three months. (See Table 2)

POINT: *Before coming to the shelter: "I had to sleep on the couch at my cousin's house. My brother was at my grandma's house and my aunt slept in her room with her three kids."*
Homeless 3-year-old Girl, Bucks County, PA

FACT: *More than one-third of homeless families have lived doubled- or tripled-up with friends or relatives.*

Homeless families cope with multiple moves by piecing together a patchwork of accommodations for their children. Prior to their current residence, one in three homeless families (33%) lived with friends or relatives, one in five (20%) in a shelter, and five percent (5%) in a welfare hotel or motel. These all represent temporary way stations that families must leave when an argument ensues, money runs out, or time limits are up. Then, the search for housing begins again.

Multiple moves also result from an overburdened shelter system. Facing a demand for housing that far exceeds the supply of resources, shelter providers are frequently forced to turn families away or limit their length of stay. Each night, roughly half (49%) of all children needing shelter do not find it.[3]

POINT: *"This time we were lucky. We were turned away six times, this time we got in."* Homeless Parent, New York, NY

FACT: *Half of all children in need of shelter do not receive it.* Los Angeles

Dangerous Residences

For homeless children, the impacts of frequent relocations are compounded by dangerous living environments. Nearly half of school-aged homeless children (47%) witnessed domestic or family violence. Of those families who last lived in their own apartment or house, nearly one in five (18%) became homeless due to domestic violence.

The nomadic life that results from homelessness has a disastrous effect on children. In the struggle to provide necessities—shelter, food, and clothing—the emotional, physical, and educational needs of these children are neglected. What is worse, they become poised to repeat the same cycle of poverty and homelessness that traps their parents.

Drawing by Homeless Seven-year-old Boy
Salem-Keizer Public Schools Homeless Program, Salem, OR

Table 2: Number of Residences and Relocations per Year

Location	Homeless Families: Avg. # of Residences	Homeless Families: % Moving 3+ Times	Location	Homeless Families: Avg. # of Residences	Homeless Families: % Moving 3+ Times
Nationwide	3	20	Nationwide	3	20
Atlanta, GA	3	22	New Orleans, LA	2	14
Baltimore, MD	3	17	New York, NY	2	12
Bucks Co., PA	3	30	Norman, OK	4	41
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	3	22	Philadelphia, PA	3	13
Denver, CO	4	26	Phoenix, AZ	4	28
Los Angeles, CA	3	23	Richmond, VA	3	17
Louisiana (statewide)	2	16	Salem/Eugene, OR	3	27
Maryland (statewide)	3	11	Seattle, WA	3	35
Memphis, TN	3	14	South Bend, IN	3	19
Miami, FL	2	13	St. Louis, MO	3	14
Nevada (statewide)	3	27	Trenton, NJ	3	16
Newark, NJ	2	10	Tulsa, OK	4	33

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Jason

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No More Pencils, No More Books: Education

Homeless children bring more than books to school with them. Multiple relocations, poor health and nutrition, and enrollment delays all contribute to their burden. Missed school days and frequent school transfers are common to their lives and can lead to profound educational setbacks. As a result, homeless children lack access to a quality education—their best hope for escaping poverty.

THE STATE OF HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Preschool-aged Homeless Children

Forty-one percent (41%) of homeless children are under the age of five. Recent research indicates that cognitive development during these formative years is critical for future academic success.[1] Yet, living in shelters offers little opportunity for learning and emotional growth. As a result, homeless preschool-aged children are more than *three times as likely* to manifest developmental delays as low-income, non-homeless children.[2] Making matters worse, the US Department of Education estimates that only twenty-one percent (21%) of homeless children are enrolled in preschool programs—less than half the rate of all children nationally (53%).[3,4] (See Figure 1)

POINT *"Enrollment in preschool programs and kindergarten is impossible without a fixed address."* Shoreline Parent, Seattle, WA

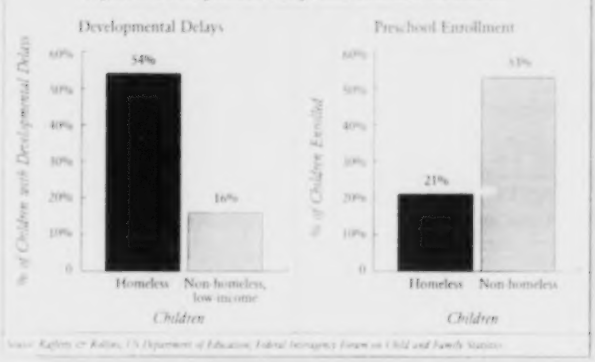
FACT *Homeless children are enrolled in preschool at less than half the rate of all other children.*

School-aged Homeless Children

Older homeless children face educational troubles of their own. A study in New York, NY, found that roughly three-quarters of homeless children perform below grade level in reading and spelling (75% and 72% respectively), and half perform below grade level in math (54%).[5] Furthermore, sixteen percent (16%) are in special education classes—a rate thirty-three percent higher than that of children nationally.[6] (See Figure 2)

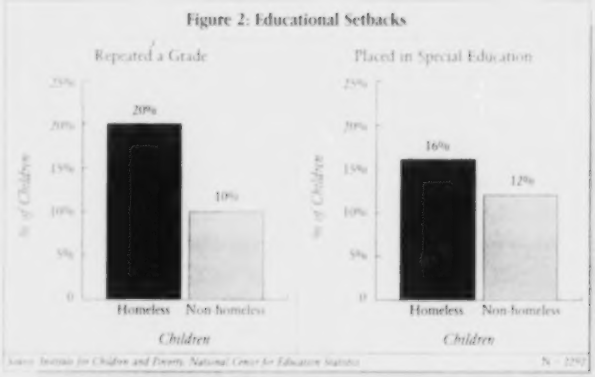
These educational setbacks can permanently push a child off track. Across the country, one in five homeless school-aged children (20%) repeats a grade in school—twice the national rate for all children.[7] (See Figure 2) In Norman and Tulsa, OK, these rates are startlingly high: one in three homeless children (30%) repeats a grade; and in New Orleans, LA, Philadelphia, PA, and St. Louis, MO, the figure is over one-quarter. (See Table 1) As they get older, these students are more likely to develop a negative self-image, drop out of school, and get into trouble with the law, than those who are not left back.[8]

Figure 1: Developmental Delays and Preschool Enrollment



Homeless children are three times as likely to manifest developmental delays and much less likely to attend preschool as non-homeless children. Such delays and low enrollment profoundly jeopardize children's educational future.

Figure 2: Educational Setbacks



Homeless children are more likely than non-homeless children to repeat a grade in school and to be placed in special education.

Table 1: Grade Repetition and Special Education Placement

	% of Homeless Children			% of Homeless Children	
Locations	*Repeated a Grade*	*Placed in Special Ed*	*Locations*	*Repeated a Grade*	*Placed in Special Ed*
Nationwide	20	16	Nationwide	20	16
Atlanta, GA	18	11	New Orleans, LA	27	7
Baltimore, MD	11	13	New York, NY	21	15
Bucks Co., PA	20	28	Norman, OK	30	21
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	13	12	Philadelphia, PA	28	6
Denver, CO	10	23	Phoenix, AZ	18	18
Los Angeles, CA	10	16	Richmond, VA	15	21
Louisiana (statewide)	26	9	Salem/Eugene, OR	12	20
Maryland (statewide)	19	18	Seattle, WA	16	16
Memphis, TN	21	12	South Bend, IN	22	15
Miami, FL	24	37	St. Louis, MO	28	11
Nevada (statewide)	12	12	Trenton, NJ	18	17
Newark, NJ	24	20	Tulsa, OK	30	18

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

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WHY HOMELESS CHILDREN ARE UNDEREDUCATED

Homelessness places many hurdles between children and educational success. Instability, poor health and nutrition, problems enrolling, and parent undereducation prevent children from obtaining the consistency in the classroom that is so crucial to the learning process.

POINT *"Every time we move we have to change schools."* Homeless 12-year-old girl, Bucks County, PA

FACT *Over half of homeless children transfer schools at least once in a given year.*

School Transfers

In the last year, more than half of homeless children (55%) transferred schools. Of these, twenty-one percent (21%) transferred twice, and sixteen percent (16%) transferred three times or more. In some areas, the situation is especially severe. More than two-thirds of homeless children transferring schools in Denver, CO, (69%) transferred more than once; in Richmond, VA, and Seattle, WA, two out of five children (40% and 38% respectively) transferred more than three times during a single school year. (See Table 2)

Such transfers often result from the nomadic existence of homeless families. Eighty-five percent (85%) of parents cite homelessness or multiple relocations as the reason why their children transfer schools. Indeed, the more often a family relocates, the more likely children are to transfer schools. (See Figure 5)

POINT *"There is too much unnecessary paperwork for special needs children. Too much time lapses getting special needs children in proper classes."* Homeless Parent, Richmond, VA

FACT *Frequent moves decrease the likelihood that homeless children will receive the special education classes they need.*

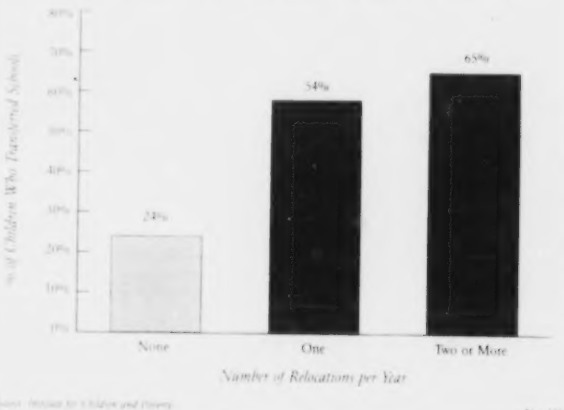
The effects of school transfers can be long-lasting. Researchers estimate that it takes a child four to six months to recover academically from such transfers.[3] In fact, homeless children who transfer are thirty-five percent more likely to repeat a grade and seventy-eight percent more likely to have poor attendance than those who do not transfer at all. (See Table 3 and Figure 4) Such transfers can also stand in the way of special education placements–multiple moves leave little time for assessment, making homeless children less likely to receive special services they may need.

Table 2: Extent and Frequency of School Transfers per Year

		% of Homeless Children		
	% Transferring	# of Transfers per Year		
Location	*each Year*	*1*	*2*	*3+*
Nationwide	55	63	21	16
Atlanta, GA	60	60	30	10
Baltimore, MD	63	65	20	15
Bucks Co., PA	52	64	12	24
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	55	61	29	10
Denver, CO	64	31	62	7
Los Angeles, CA	53	60	12	28
Louisiana (statewide)	45	68	19	13
Maryland (statewide)	58	73	15	12
Memphis, TN	55	79	7	14
Miami, FL	77	77	16	7
Nevada (statewide)	41	59	30	11
Newark, NJ	12	92	8	0
New Orleans, LA	19	58	31	11
New York, NY	61	68	17	15
Norman, OK	63	100	0	0
Philadelphia, PA	61	58	26	16
Phoenix, AZ	26	52	22	26
Richmond, VA	52	40	20	40
Salem/Eugene, OR	58	57	26	17
Seattle, WA	60	50	12	38
South Bend, IN	54	56	11	33
St. Louis, MO	38	65	35	0
Trenton, NJ	52	81	19	0
Tulsa, OK	86	65	27	8

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Figure 5: Impact of Multiple Relocations on School Transfers



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 3313

Homeless children are more than twice as likely to transfer schools if they relocated at least once during the last year and almost three times as likely if they relocated more than twice.

Table 3: Relationship Between School Transfers and Grade Repetition

Homeless children	*Repeated a Grade*
Never Transferred	17%
Transferred Once or More	23%

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 2263

Children who transfer schools miss classroom time and instruction and, as a result, fall behind. Homeless children who transfer schools at least once are more likely to repeat a grade than those who do not transfer.

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POINT *"I've been to five different schools already."*
Homeless 9-year-old Girl, Bucks County, PA

FACT *Eighty-five percent of parents cite homelessness, or multiple moves, as the primary reason why their children transfer schools.*

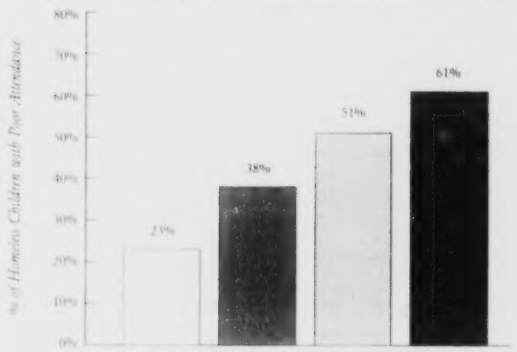
Excessive Absences

Regular school attendance is imperative for academic success, yet forty-five percent (45%) of homeless school-aged children do not attend school regularly.[30] Nationally, twelve percent (12%) miss more than one month of school and one-third (33%) miss more than two weeks. In fact, in sixteen of the twenty-four locations, at least ten percent of homeless children miss more than one month of school. In extreme cases, such as Philadelphia, PA, and Tulsa, OK, over half of homeless children (54% and 55% respectively) miss more than two weeks of school per year. (See Table 4) The impact of such absenteeism is devastating: two-thirds of students (66%) who miss twenty or more school days in one year during first, second, or third grade eventually drop out.[31]

Desmond

As for why these children miss school so often, fourteen percent (14%) of their parents cite the stresses of homelessness—such as sleepless nights at noisy shelters and anxiety over finding housing—and thirty-one percent (31%) cite frequent illness, a common result of homelessness. Frequent moves also contribute to excessive absences: homeless children who relocate during the school year are thirty-one percent more likely to have poor attendance than those who do not move.

Figure 4: Relationship Between School Transfers and Poor Attendance



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 1621

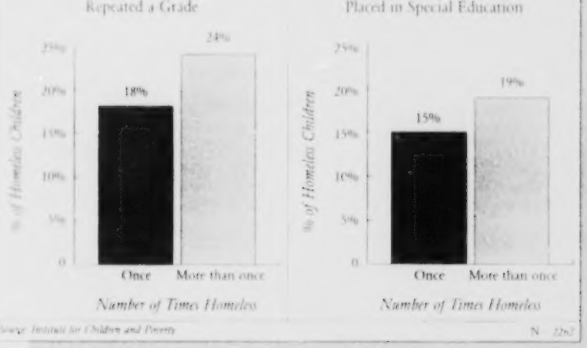
The more school changes a child makes, the more likely he or she is to be absent from school for prolonged periods of time. Homeless children who transfer schools three or more times are almost three times as likely to miss more than two weeks of school as children who do not transfer.

Table 4: School Absences

Locations	% of Homeless Children Absent: More than 2 Weeks	% of Homeless Children Absent: More than 4 Weeks	Locations	% of Homeless Children Absent: More than 2 Weeks	% of Homeless Children Absent: More than 4 Weeks
Nationwide	33	12	Nationwide	33	12
Atlanta, GA	18	2	New Orleans, LA	26	19
Baltimore, MD	37	14	New York, NY	23	7
Bucks Co., PA	44	8	Norman, OK	21	0
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	16	4	Philadelphia, PA	54	30
Denver, CO	36	10	Phoenix, AZ	45	15
Los Angeles, CA	36	7	Richmond, VA	19	2
Louisiana (statewide)	27	11	Salem/Eugene, OR	46	46
Maryland (statewide)	36	13	Seattle, WA	38	20
Memphis, TN	21	12	South Bend, IN	25	0
Miami, FL	43	17	St. Louis, MO	30	10
Nevada (statewide)	46	14	Trenton, NJ	26	12
Newark, NJ	23	23	Tulsa, OK	55	32

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Figure 5: Comparison of Times Homeless and Educational Performance



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 2262

Children who return to homelessness are thirty-three percent more likely to repeat a grade and twenty-seven percent more likely to be placed in special education than children who are homeless for the first time.

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Chronic Homelessness

Not surprisingly, chronically homeless children face repeated threats to their academic success. Those who are homeless more than once are thirty-three percent more likely to repeat a grade, and twenty-seven percent more likely to be in a special education class than children homeless only once. (See Figure 5)

Enrollment Problems

In 1987, fifty-seven percent (57%) of homeless children did not attend school.[12] In that same year, Congress passed the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act targeting, among other things, school enrollment barriers.[13] Nonetheless, today, roughly ten percent (9%) are still not enrolled in school.

Despite improvement, barriers to enrollment still exist. Nationally, one-quarter of parents (24%) have problems enrolling or keeping their children in school once they become homeless. They report residency issues (57%), lack of transportation (48%), lack of records (14%), lack of immunizations (10%), and guardianship issues (5%) as common barriers to enrollment. (See Table 5) Such barriers result in frequent absences. In cities where absenteeism is the highest—Philadelphia, PA, and Tulsa, OK—enrollment problems are cited as the primary cause of absences (38% and 46% respectively).

Undereducated Parents

Many homeless parents are ill-equipped to provide their children with educational support. Forty-one percent (41%) do not have a high school diploma, and the typical homeless parent reads at the sixth grade level.[14] They often feel unprepared or too intimidated to become involved in their child's schooling. As a result, their children are more likely to be left behind: homeless children whose parents did not graduate from high school are forty-seven percent more likely to repeat a grade and thirty-six percent more likely to be in special education classes than those whose parents have a high school diploma. (See Figure 6)

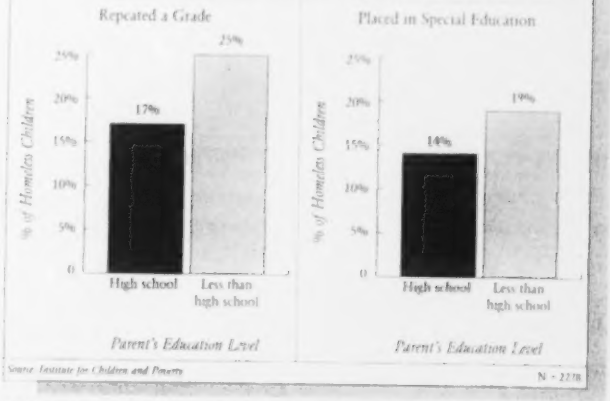
As devastating as these findings are, many of the educational setbacks caused by homelessness may not be apparent for years to come. Children who fail to thrive at age three may be left back at age eight and may drop out altogether by age sixteen. Every child requires stability and support to succeed in school; homeless children are unlikely to receive either.

Table 5: Enrollment Problems

Location	% Experiencing Enrollment Problems	Homeless Families: Specific Barriers Faced (%)*				
		Residency	Transportation	Records	Immunization	Guardianship
Nationwide	24	57	48	14	10	5
Atlanta, GA	17	50	33	17	0	0
Baltimore, MD	30	50	64	7	7	7
Bucks Co., PA	24	58	50	8	8	8
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	19	31	31	25	6	19
Denver, CO	38	63	46	8	4	4
Los Angeles, CA	38	77	46	9	0	0
Louisiana (statewide)	27	66	17	24	10	7
Maryland (statewide)	13	63	47	6	6	6
Memphis, TN	25	41	77	12	0	12
Miami, FL	14	64	55	0	27	9
Nevada (statewide)	25	50	29	50	57	0
Newark, NJ	16	67	56	11	22	0
New Orleans, LA	17	78	22	22	0	0
New York, NY	12	40	35	0	5	0
Norman, OK	46	100	100	29	0	14
Philadelphia, PA	11	29	29	14	14	0
Phoenix, AZ	24	72	39	17	17	17
Richmond, VA	19	83	33	50	17	0
Salem/Eugene, OR	16	50	60	20	10	0
Seattle, WA	39	52	72	3	3	0
South Bend, IN	6	100	100	50	0	0
St. Louis, MO	24	27	59	9	5	0
Trenton, NJ	16	67	67	0	0	11
Tulsa, OK	33	57	43	21	14	7

* Respondents could give multiple answers, all percentages do not add to 100.
Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Figure 6: Relationship Between Homeless Parents' Education Levels and Children's Educational Performance



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty
N = 2378

Children of undereducated parents are forty-seven percent more likely to be left back and thirty-six percent more likely to be placed in a special education class than children whose parents received a high school diploma or GED.

Sick and Tired: Physical and Emotional Health

Despite the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1997, which expanded health care coverage for uninsured American children, inadequate health care and the illnesses associated with homelessness continue to plague homeless children. Unfortunately, the ideal of health coverage for all American children has not permeated the shelters, streets, welfare hotels, and campgrounds where so many homeless children live. As a result, many are left to suffer needlessly.

Calvin

THE HEALTH OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

General Health

Nationwide, over one-quarter of all children (26%) and one-third of children under age five (33%) became ill more often during episodes of homelessness. In New York, NY, and Philadelphia, PA, children are sick at rates exceeding forty percent (46% and 41% respectively). (See Table 1)

POINT *"Because of being in a shelter her eczema turned into impetigo [It] was filthy and unsanitary ... an unhealthy environment."*
Veronica Farrell, Seattle, WA

FACT *Over one-quarter of all children got ill more often once they became homeless.*

Life in shelters and on the streets is primarily to blame for these increases in illness. Congregate shelter settings encourage the transmission of infectious diseases, as do shelter regulations in many cities that require families to spend their days on the streets. For young children who are not in school during the day, these restrictions may mean exposure to the elements, inability to take naps, and difficulty recovering from sickness.[1] Not surprisingly, homeless children suffer *three times as many stomach problems, five times as many diarrheal infections, fifty percent more ear infections, and twice as many hospitalizations as non-homeless children.*[2]

Table 1: Health Status

	% of Homeless Children			*% of Homeless Children*	
Location	*Health Declined**	*Have Asthma*	*Location*	*Health Declined**	*Have Asthma*
Nationwide	26	20	Nationwide	26	20
Atlanta, GA	27	14	New Orleans, LA	12	18
Baltimore, MD	19	18	New York, NY	46	34
Bucks Co., PA	33	17	Norman, OK	3	14
Dallas Ft. Worth, TX	25	20	Philadelphia, PA	41	22
Denver, CO	37	22	Phoenix, AZ	36	21
Los Angeles, CA	19	11	Richmond, VA	30	30
Louisiana (statewide)	12	15	Salem/Eugene, OR	22	19
Maryland (statewide)	26	17	Seattle, WA	21	12
Memphis, TN	7	7	South Bend, IN	27	13
Miami, FL	21	30	St. Louis, MO	16	18
Nevada (statewide)	25	9	Trenton, NJ	17	23
Newark, NJ	29	22	Tulsa, OK	19	16

*"Health Declined" refers to homeless children's health status after becoming homeless.
Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Asthma

Asthma is one of the most enduring results of homelessness and the primary health problem faced by homeless children. Twenty percent (20%) of homeless children have asthma—almost three times the rate of all children nationally (7%).[3] In New York, NY, Miami, FL, and Richmond, VA, it is a problem of daunting proportions, affecting roughly one-third of homeless children (34%, 30%, and 30% respectively)—*more than four times the national rate.* (See Table 1)

Homeless children suffer

- three times as many gastrointestinal disorders;
- five times as many diarrheal infections;
- twice as many hospitalizations; and
- one and a half times as many chronic physical disorders

...as non-homeless children.

Source: Barbara J. Weiss, Ayesha Sherman, & Weiss

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POINT *"I noticed that he was breathing deeply [because of his asthma] and he was just laying around. I would try to talk to him, to play with him, and he wouldn't respond. And he was really, really hot."* Homeless Parent, Saratoga Family Inn

FACT *Twenty percent of homeless children suffer from asthma.*

Poor health, and asthma in particular, dampen homeless children's educational prospects by jeopardizing school attendance. Thirty-one percent (31%) of homeless children cite illness as the primary cause of school absences. Those with asthma fare especially badly—they are twenty-one percent more likely to miss school than those who are not asthmatic.

Immunizations

Homeless children are much less likely than non-homeless children to be fully immunized.[7] Those who are not up-to-date on their immunizations face a greater chance of contracting measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, or hepatitis.[8] In addition to the physical effects of these diseases, the lack of immunization records contributes to considerable delays in school enrollment.

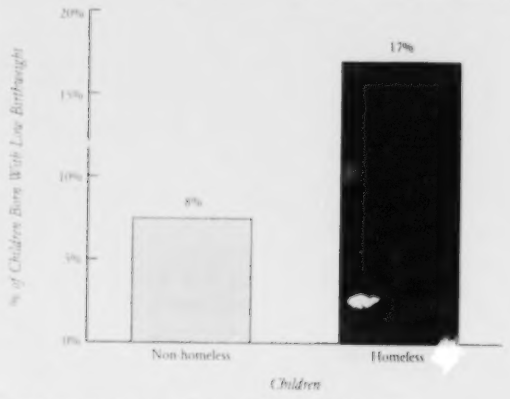
POINT *"At first I didn't know I was pregnant. Then I didn't know where to go or what to do."* Homeless Parent, New York, NY

FACT *Homeless infants are more than twice as likely to have low birthweight as all infants.* Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

Low Birthweight

Birthweight is a critical determinant of an infant's subsequent health and survival. Low birthweight babies have a higher rate of infant mortality and are at greater risk of long-term illness and disability.[9] Seventeen percent (17%) of children born to homeless women have low birthweight—more than twice the rate of children nationally (8%).[10] (See Figure 2)

Figure 2: Birthweights of Homeless and Non-homeless Children



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty, Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. N = 3%

Children born to homeless women are more than twice as likely as non-homeless children to be born with low birthweight.

Luis

WHY HOMELESS CHILDREN FARE SO POORLY

Health Coverage and Emergency Care

Nearly half of all homeless families (48%) lack Medicaid insurance. Additionally, due to either inadvertent or intentional cuts in Medicaid benefits during the implementation of welfare reform, more families are joining the ranks of the uninsured.[11] Ten percent (10%) of homeless families have had their Medicaid reduced or terminated in the last year. (See Table 2)

POINT *"They keep giving me new places to go for a doctor, so many I don't know what I'm doing or where my kids should go."* Homeless Parent, Martin de Porres Inn

FACT *Nearly 450,000 children lost Medicaid coverage and were without health insurance in 1997 because of welfare reform.* Families USA Foundation

Table 2: Medicaid Status

Location	% of Homeless Families Currently on Medicaid	% of Homeless Families Reduced or Cut*	Location	% of Homeless Families Currently on Medicaid	% of Homeless Families Reduced or Cut*
Nationwide	53	10	Nationwide	53	10
Atlanta, GA	52	8	New Orleans, LA	61	2
Baltimore, MD	37	20	New York, NY	78	16
Bucks Co., PA	51	13	Norman, OK	50	9
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	79	16	Philadelphia, PA	39	2
Denver, CO	38	4	Phoenix, AZ	21	5
Los Angeles, CA	18	3	Richmond, VA	72	15
Louisiana (statewide)	52	5	Salem/Eugene, OR	16	3
Maryland (statewide)	45	18	Seattle, WA	59	13
Memphis, TN	51	5	South Bend, IN	76	31
Miami, FL	41	9	St. Louis, MO	82	12
Nevada (statewide)	46	11	Trenton, NJ	60	9
Newark, NJ	75	9	Tulsa, OK	17	7

* Refers to Medicaid reductions and terminations in the last year.
Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Prenatal Care

From the start, these children suffer dire consequences from this lack of health insurance: homeless women are much less likely to receive prenatal care than non-homeless women.[11] As children grow older, the problem worsens: a majority of homeless families (56%) do not have their own family doctor and instead rely on either emergency rooms or walk-in clinics for regular care. In fact, fifteen percent (15%) of homeless children rely solely on emergency rooms—almost five times the rate of all children nationally.[12] In Louisiana, Miami, FL, and Phoenix, AZ, the problem is far worse: roughly one-third of homeless families (34%, 31%, and 31% respectively) rely on emergency rooms for health care. (See Table 3)

POINT *"We go to the hospital every two weeks. It's constantly colds and dehydration."* Homeless Parent, New York, NY, The Association Project

FACT *Fifteen percent of homeless children receive medical care only in emergency rooms.*

These patterns result in homeless families receiving fragmented care and only seeking help when an illness becomes too acute to ignore.[13] By making sporadic visits and rarely seeing the same provider twice, it is difficult to obtain consistent health care and chronic but treatable conditions, like asthma, go untreated.

Table 3: Primary Source of Health Care

	% of Homeless Families Using			% of Homeless Families Using	
Locations	*Emergency Rooms*	*Walk in Clinics*	*Locations*	*Emergency Rooms*	*Walk in Clinics*
Nationwide	15	41	Nationwide	15	41
Atlanta, GA	8	33	New Orleans, LA	31	23
Baltimore, MD	6	50	New York, NY	13	46
Bucks Co., PA	3	7	Norman, OK	16	47
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	28	45	Philadelphia, PA	3	53
Denver, CO	15	58	Phoenix, AZ	31	20
Los Angeles, CA	8	31	Richmond, VA	19	30
Louisiana (statewide)	34	23	Salem/Eugene, OR	9	34
Maryland (statewide)	15	34	Seattle, WA	5	59
Memphis, TN	7	59	South Bend, IN	10	38
Miami, FL	31	48	St. Louis, MO	*	58
Nevada (statewide)	16	55	Trenton, NJ	16	37
Newark, NJ	5	26	Tulsa, OK	15	48

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

THE EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

Emotional Response to Homelessness

Roughly half of school-aged children (47%) and twenty-six percent (26%) of children under age five suffer emotionally from depression, anxiety, or aggression after becoming homeless. In Seattle, WA, and Bucks County, PA, more than half of all homeless children (54% and 51% respectively) have such responses. (See Table 4) Multiple stresses make problems worse: children are more likely to suffer emotionally during homelessness if they become ill, are frequently absent from school, or are chronically homeless. At times, these negative feelings can be dangerous—suicidal tendencies are common among homeless children over the age of five.[14]

How I cope with being homeless:

"I fight all the time."
"I pray."
"I try not to remember where I used to be."
"I smoke sometimes."
"I drink sometimes."
"I talk to someone, my teacher, my counselor."
"I say to myself, it's only temporary."

Homeless Children aged 8 to 14, TX

POINT *"It has been a depressing situation for him. He cries often and asks to go home. This is a very difficult time for us."* Homeless Parent, Family Shelter, Richmond, VA

FACT *Nearly half of school-aged children experience depression, anxiety, or aggression after becoming homeless.*

Table 4: Effect of Homelessness on Emotional Health

	% of Homeless Children			% of Homeless Children	
Locations	*Suffer Emotionally*	*Taunted at School*	*Locations*	*Suffer Emotionally*	*Taunted at School*
Nationwide	39	14	Nationwide	39	14
Atlanta, GA	27	6	New Orleans, LA	35	6
Baltimore, MD	40	8	New York, NY	41	19
Bucks Co., PA	51	17	Norman, OK	32	10
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	33	11	Philadelphia, PA	42	18
Denver, CO	44	13	Phoenix, AZ	38	16
Los Angeles, CA	48	16	Richmond, VA	24	6
Louisiana (statewide)	32	12	Salem/Eugene, OR	47	10
Maryland (statewide)	41	11	Seattle, WA	54	9
Memphis, TN	27	2	South Bend, IN	45	21
Miami, FL	35	17	St. Louis, MO	40	23
Nevada (statewide)	50	30	Trenton, NJ	35	11
Newark, NJ	26	6	Tulsa, OK	35	6

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

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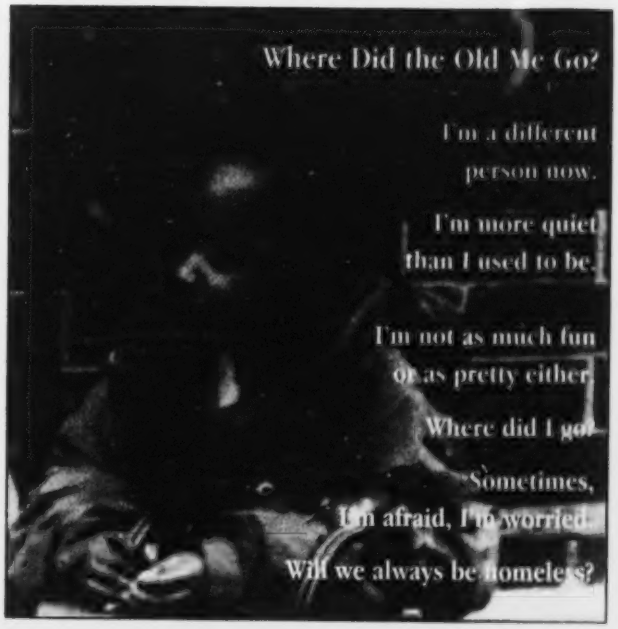
Taunting by Their Peers

Homeless school-aged children also suffer at the hands of their classmates. When fellow students learn that a child is homeless, the response can be malicious, turning schools from safe havens into nightmares. According to their parents, thirteen percent (13%) of grade-schoolers and sixteen percent (16%) of teens are taunted at school for being homeless. (See Table 4) Taunting makes children nearly twice as likely to experience depression, anxiety, or aggression after becoming homeless.

The emotional impact of homelessness is an additional burden for children. Those who suffer from depression or anxiety will have greater difficulty in school; those who react with anger and aggression will only become further isolated from their peers. In the end, these children lose out on their childhood—something they can never regain.



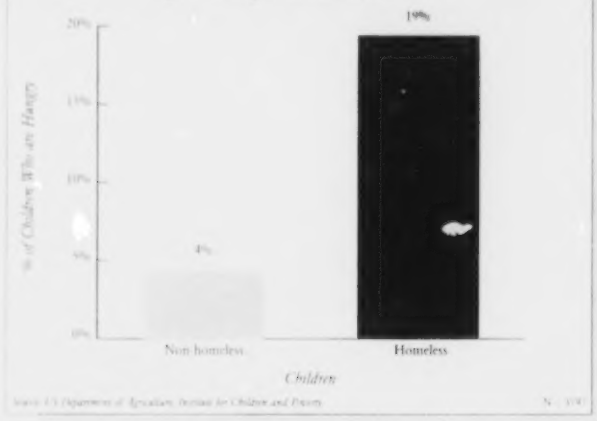
Tanya
American Family Inn

Poem by Homeless 11 year-old Girl
Salem-Keizer Public Schools Homeless Program, Salem, OR

An Empty Plate: Nutrition and Hunger

Across the country, nearly three and a half million children experience hunger.[1] A poor diet can be extremely harmful to children's emotional and physical well-being, as well as their future health, development, and academic achievement.[2] Homelessness only increases a child's chance of experiencing hunger. One out of every five homeless children (19%) does not eat enough, a rate nearly four and a half times that of all children nationwide (4%). (See Figure 1 and Table 1)

Figure 1: Hunger and Homeless Children



Homeless children are nearly four and a half times as likely as non-homeless children to be hungry.

Table 1: Hunger

Locations	% of Homeless Children Experiencing Hunger	Locations	% of Homeless Children Experiencing Hunger
Nationwide	19	Nationwide	19
Atlanta, GA	13	New Orleans, LA	8
Baltimore, MD	22	New York, NY	23
Bucks Co., PA	17	Norman, OK	9
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	11	Philadelphia, PA	43
Denver, CO	16	Phoenix, AZ	22
Los Angeles, CA	11	Richmond, VA	15
Louisiana (statewide)	12	Salem/Eugene, OR	16
Maryland (statewide)	20	Seattle, WA	8
Memphis, TN	7	South Bend, IN	37
Miami, FL	50	St. Louis, MO	10
Nevada (statewide)	31	Trenton, NJ	29
Newark, NJ	23	Tulsa, OK	17

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, CHRONIC HUNGER

The Problem

One in four children (25%) eats less after becoming homeless. In Philadelphia, PA, and Miami, FL, this rate is as high as fifty percent (51% and 50% respectively). Homeless children eat less for multiple reasons, such as appetite changes or the inability to tolerate the food served at shelters. Other homeless families simply do not have enough food to feed their children, a situation that grows increasingly severe the more chronic a family's homelessness becomes. (See Figure 2)

POINT *"[There's] not enough food to eat."* Homeless Child, TX

FACT *One in four children eats less after becoming homeless.*

The Consequences

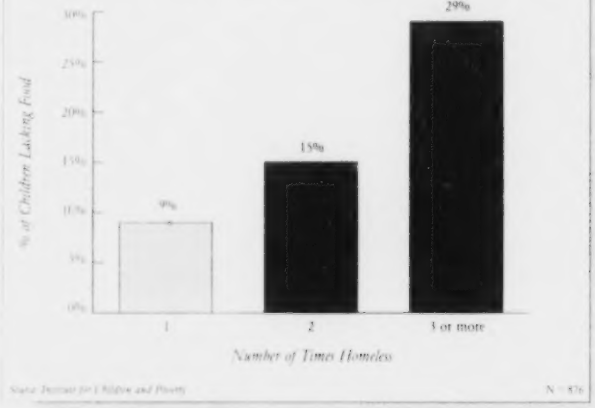
Hunger and poor nutrition seriously impact children's health. Almost half of children who eat less after becoming homeless (49%) show a decline in health—a rate nearly three times that of homeless children who eat the same amount or more. (See Figure 3)

POINT *"Give us more food. I stay hungry."* Homeless Child, TX

FACT *Half of the children who eat less after becoming homeless also show a decline in health.*

For homeless children who do get enough to eat, poor nutrition is often still a problem. They are seven times as likely as non-homeless children to be iron deficient, making them far more susceptible to lead poisoning.[3,4] Additionally, more than one in five (22%) are either severely obese or underweight, facing an increased risk of respiratory and stomach problems.[5]

Figure 2: Relationship Between Chronic Homelessness and Lack of Food



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 876

Children who are homeless more than once are nearly twice as likely to lack enough food as those homeless only once; those homeless three times or more have triple the chance of not having enough food.

POINT *"My daughter became thin and the doctor told me she was diabetic."*

FACT *Homeless children are seven times as likely as non-homeless children to be iron deficient.*

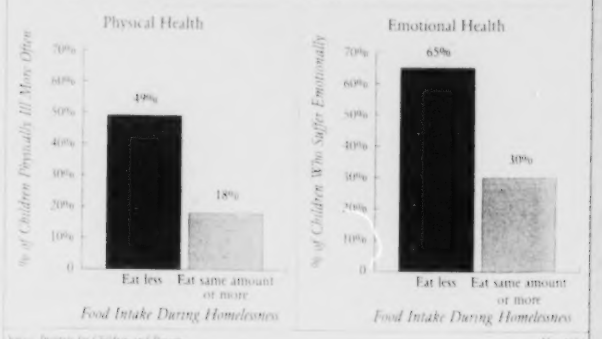
Hunger and poor nutrition also negatively impact children's emotional well-being. Anxiety over getting enough food can result in high levels of stress, low self-worth, and aggressive behavior in children. Indeed, children who eat less while homeless are more than twice as likely to suffer emotionally—becoming increasingly fearful, anxious, depressed, or angry—as children who eat the same amount or more. (See Figure 3)

Lastly, they suffer academically from hunger and poor nutrition. During a child's first two years, an unhealthy diet can jeopardize brain growth and cognitive development. For older children, eating less results in difficulty concentrating in the classroom and more frequent school absences. Hungry children are therefore less able to learn and excel than non-hungry students.

POINT *"The children lost weight and now they fall asleep in school."*

FACT *Not eating enough leads to more frequent school absences and more trouble concentrating and excelling in school.*

Figure 3: Impact of Homelessness on Food Intake and Child Health



Source: Institute for Children and Poverty N = 1650

Children who eat less during homelessness are more likely to get sick as well as suffer from depression, anxiety, and anger than those who eat the same amount or more.

WHY ARE CHILDREN GOING HUNGRY?

Government Programs

The zeal to reduce welfare dependency has improperly resulted in fewer families receiving assistance to relieve hunger. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of homeless families receive neither Food Stamps nor WIC (Women, Infants and Children), though most may in fact be eligible. Since the enactment of welfare reform, the number of individuals receiving Food Stamps has dropped by twenty-nine percent nationally. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of homeless families had their Food Stamps reduced or cut in the last year alone. However, these declines do not reflect a decrease in need. Between 1997 and 1998, the number of children in households suffering from food insecurity increased by 3.7 million to over 14 million.

POINT *"My welfare card didn't work at the store. My kids were crying. The man behind me bought the food."*

FACT *Nearly forty percent of homeless families have had their Food Stamps reduced or cut in the last year.*

Photo by Todd Hasbrouck *Brittany*

22

Housing

Where a family lives during an episode of homelessness can shape a child's experience with hunger. One in four children living in welfare hotels, campgrounds, shanties, abandoned buildings, cars, or on the street (28%) does not eat enough and is hungry—a rate forty percent higher than that of homeless children living in shelters (20%) and six times the rate of all children nationally (4%).[12] (See Figure 4)

POINT *"[We've] moved several times ... [The] children [are] not eating much now."* Homeless Parent, Dallas, TX

FACT *Homeless children not living in shelters are seven times more likely to eat less because they do not have access to enough food than children living in shelters.*

Homeless children living in shelters have nutritional problems of their own. Often, shelters provide food just three times daily, ignoring the needs of younger children who need smaller meals five or six times per day.[13] Shelter meals are typically low in nutritional value, including few fruits and vegetables and an excessive amount of milk, meats, and sweets.[14] Furthermore, the lack of access to kitchens or refrigerators, as well as other shelter restrictions, can limit parents' ability to ensure that children's diets remain healthy.

POINT *"There should be more nutritious meals for children and [they] should serve adequate portions."* Homeless Parent, New York, NY

"[They] should have food available no matter what time it is to feed hungry children." Homeless Parent, Tulsa, OK

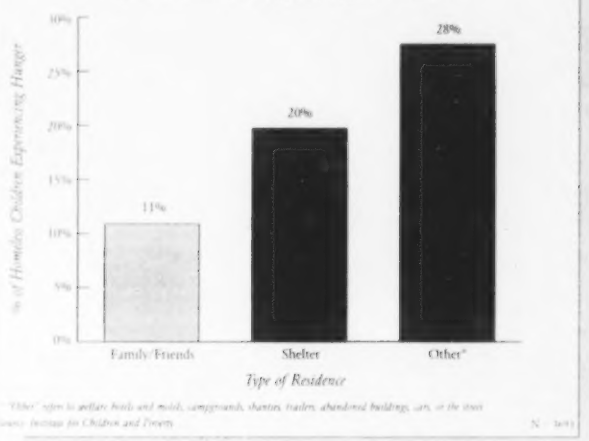
FACT *Shelter restrictions limit children's access to food.*

Charities and Non-Profit Organizations

Emergency food programs, such as soup kitchens and food pantries, are a homeless family's last defense against hunger. Yet many of these organizations are having difficulty keeping up with increasing demand. In the last year alone, requests for food made by families with children rose an average of fourteen percent (14%) nationwide. Food pantries and soup kitchens are being pushed to their limits; last year nearly one in five requests made by families (18%) was estimated to have gone unmet.[15]

When these services of last resort fail to provide for children, the resulting hunger can have far-reaching effects. This lack of adequate nutrition increases the likelihood of educational struggles and reduces the chance that homeless children will develop into healthy, independent adults.

Figure 4: Extent of Hunger by Type of Residence



"Other" refers to welfare hotels and motels, campgrounds, shanties, trailers, abandoned buildings, cars, or the street.
Source: Institute for Children and Poverty. N = 3693

Children who live in welfare hotels, campgrounds, shanties, abandoned buildings, cars, or on the streets are more likely to go hungry than children who live in shelters or doubled up with friends or relatives.

Photo by Jerry Spoon

Cassie

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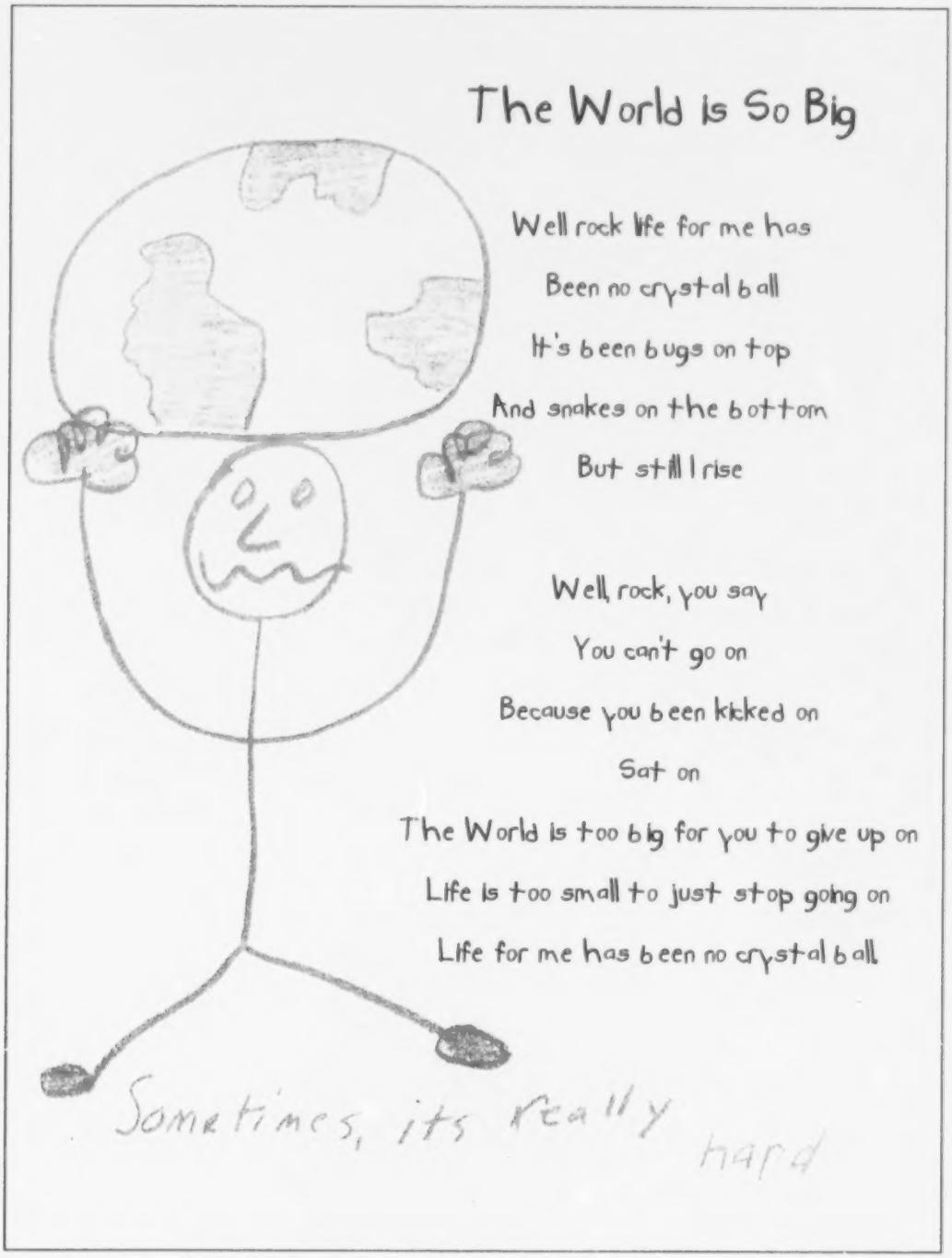
The World is So Big
Well rock life for me has
Been no crystal ball
It's been bugs on top
And snakes on the bottom
But still I rise
Well, rock, you say
You can't go on
Because you been kicked on
Sat on
The World is too big for you to give up on
Life is too small to just stop going on
Life for me has been no crystal ball
Sometimes, its really hard

Drawing by Homeless 9-year-old Boy
Salem-Keizer Public Schools Homeless Program, Salem, OR

Poem by Homeless Child
Homes for the Homeless, New York, NY

24

In the Line of Fire: Family and Community Violence

Many homeless children have lived, and continue to live, alongside violence. According to their parents, more than half of homeless school-aged children (57%) were witness to or victims of violence in their households or communities.

CHILDREN AFFECTED, CHILDREN AFRAID

Domestic and Family Violence

Domestic violence is alarmingly prevalent among homeless families—affecting sixty-three percent (63%) of homeless parents.[1] Violence in parents' lives is rarely concealed from their children. According to parents, nearly half of homeless school-aged children (47%), and more than one-quarter of those under five years of age (29%), have witnessed domestic or family violence in their household. (See Table 1) Moreover, children who witness domestic violence are themselves at risk of abuse; as many as three out of four battered women (75%) report that their children have also been abused.

Domestic violence is often at the root of homelessness. Nationally, eighteen percent (18%) of homeless parents previously living in their own apartment or house report leaving that residence because of domestic violence. And these are not isolated incidents. Leaving an abuser often takes multiple attempts, which translate into repeated episodes of homelessness for many women—especially those whose efforts to obtain an education or employment have been sabotaged by an abuser.[2,3,4] Indeed, homeless children who witness domestic violence are nearly twice as likely to be homeless more than once than those who do not witness violence in their homes.

POINT: *"As long as I have a boyfriend, they have a roof."* (Homeless Parent, NY)

FACT: *Almost half of homeless school-aged children have witnessed domestic violence.*

Domestic violence and its resulting instability cause significant disruptions in a child's education. Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to miss school than children who do not. Likewise, children whose homelessness is caused by domestic violence are more likely to transfer schools than children who become homeless for other reasons.

Diego

Table 1: Prevalence of Violence

Location	% of Homeless School-Aged Children Experiencing: Domestic Violence	Community Violence	Youth Violence
Nationwide	47	24	7
Atlanta, GA	38	9	2
Baltimore, MD	72	34	8
Bucks Co., PA	49	23	6
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	46	22	4
Denver, CO	48	15	7
Los Angeles, CA	40	11	2
Louisiana (statewide)	47	26	10
Maryland (statewide)	58	25	8
Memphis, TN	43	15	9
Miami, FL	51	26	7
Nevada (statewide)	60	19	9
Newark, NJ	47	27	1
New Orleans, LA	48	30	9
New York, NY	29	18	5
Norman, OK	85	10	5
Philadelphia, PA	47	34	3
Phoenix, AZ	57	16	10
Richmond, VA	52	29	4
Salem/Eugene, OR	45	17	5
Seattle, WA	50	22	13
South Bend, IN	68	29	7
St. Louis, MO	47	29	6
Trenton, NJ	44	13	7
Tulsa, OK	69	33	12

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

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POINT *"You don't want to live in the shelter. I hate it. There is too much violence. I worry about adults on drugs because there are too many people acting crazy."* Homeless 9-year-old Girl, Bucks County, PA

FACT *One third of homeless teens have witnessed a stabbing, shooting, rape, or murder in their communities.*

Community Violence

According to their parents, one-third of homeless teens (34%) and one-fifth of homeless grade-schoolers (21%) have witnessed a stabbing, shooting, rape, or murder in their communities. In Philadelphia, PA, the situation is extremely grave: seventy-one percent (71%) of homeless teens and nearly half of homeless grade-schoolers (48%) have witnessed acts of violence in their communities. (See Table 1)

At times, shelters can be the source of danger—serving as homes to violence and drugs as well as to children. This may explain why children who have been homeless more than once are fifty-three percent more likely to have witnessed community violence than children homeless for the first time.

Youth Violence

Not all offenders are adults. According to their parents, fifteen percent (15%) of homeless teens and five percent (5%) of homeless grade-schoolers have been threatened or hurt by a peer with a weapon. (See Table 1)

Exposure to such violence injures children physically and psychologically. It can be all-consuming, harming their prospects for educational success and destroying their sense of self and family.[7] Combining homelessness with violence is even more detrimental, since homeless children have fewer tools to recover from the trauma of such violence.

Drawing by Homeless 10-year-old Boy, Dallas, TX

You Wouldn't Like the Violence in Brooklyn

It's guns shooting
Innocent people dying
For no reason
Rapist
Fighting
Picking at people
That's pretty much it
A whole bunch of fights
Car crashes
A lot of dead people found

Poem by Homeless 8-year-old Boy, Brooklyn, NY

The American Family Myth

In recent years, there has been much discussion over the decline of the "traditional family." While much of the debate has been swept away by constantly changing political tides, the crisis continues. Homeless children typically live in fractured families, with only one parent present or with one or more children placed in "limbo care"—in foster care, kinship care, or informally with friends or relatives. With the onset of welfare reform, this situation is likely to worsen as more families lose their benefits and are forced to abandon more children to limbo care.

POINT *"My children are in [foster care] as a result of my becoming homeless. If I can get a place my children will be returned to me. . . I really need your help."* Homeless Parent, Trenton, NJ

"It's hard on them and it's hard on me. . . I have considered giving them up because of this and the children beg me not to." Homeless Parent, NY

FACT *Nearly one in ten homeless families has at least one child living in limbo care.*

FRACTURED FAMILIES

Single Mothers

Single mothers and their families are *five times as likely* to have incomes below the poverty line as families headed by two parents, making them exceptionally vulnerable to becoming homeless.[1] In fact, three-quarters of homeless families (76%) are headed by single women, making homeless children are more than *four times as likely* as all children to live in female-headed households.

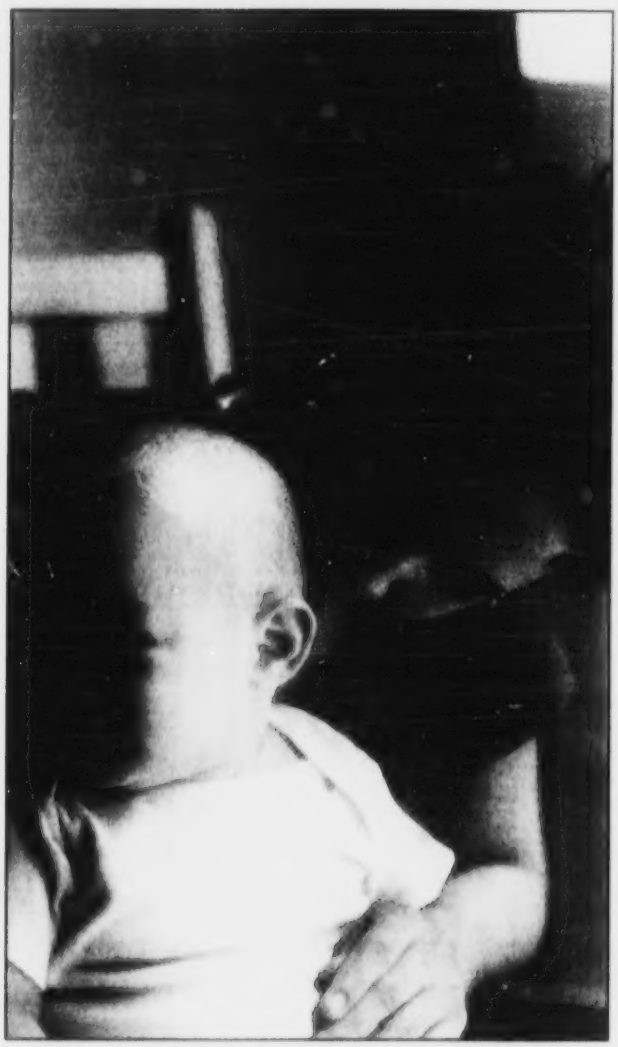
POINT *"I chose to have my five-year-old stay with my sister in Houston. I did not want to disrupt his school and I could not afford both of my children right now."* Homeless Parent, Dallas, TX

FACT *Female-headed households are five times more likely to have incomes below the poverty line than two-parent families; homeless children are four times as likely as all children to live in families headed by single mothers.*
Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, US Bureau of the Census

The typical challenges that a homeless family faces can be especially difficult for single mothers to overcome. Among homeless single mothers, forty-one percent (41%) do not have a high school diploma, just twenty-five percent (25%) are currently employed, and half (50%) have relied on welfare for over one year, giving them few tools to escape poverty. Making matters worse, nearly three-quarters of absent fathers (72%) do not pay child support for their homeless children.[2]

"Limbo Care"

Nearly one in ten homeless families (8%) has at least one child living in limbo care. Such placements, especially into foster care, can have profound implications for a child's future. Children in foster care know little stability, living with multiple families during their time in the system.[3] This mobility impedes future success; studies show that anywhere from half to two-thirds of those aging out of foster care do



Carmen and Cory

not graduate from high school.[xx] In New York, NY, approximately one-third of foster children become dependent on welfare within a year and a half of leaving the system.[xxi]

WHAT TEARS FAMILIES APART

Shelter Regulations

Some parents, mindful of the effects that episodes of homelessness have on children, choose to place their children in limbo care for the duration of their homelessness. Other parents have no choice: the US Conference of Mayors reported that in a majority of cities surveyed (53%), families may have to separate in order to be sheltered. Family shelters are often restricted to women and young children. As a result, fathers are often directed to sleep in singles shelters; boys over the age of twelve may be placed in an unaccompanied youth shelter or an adult singles shelter.[xxii]

Welfare Reform

Welfare reform also appears to fracture families. Six percent (6%) of homeless parents who had their benefits reduced or cut in the last year reported placing a child in limbo care as a result. In Phoenix, AZ, Atlanta, GA, Bucks County, PA, and Newark, NJ, the rate was twice as high (16%, 13%, 12%, and 12% respectively). (See Table 1) Placing a child in limbo care is even more common among parents staying in singles shelters.

These findings suggest a dangerous trend. Keeping a family together during the stress of homelessness is a challenge. Yet, policies intended to help families are ultimately tearing the loose threads that bind parents to children and are proving especially harmful for homeless families. It appears increasingly likely that children will end up in "limbo" instead of with their parents and that the concept of a traditional family may become a myth for the homeless.

Table 1: Impact of Welfare (TANF) Reductions on Homeless Children

Locations	% of Homeless Families: TANF Reduced/Cut*	% of Homeless Families: TANF cuts Resulted in Limbo Care	Locations	% of Homeless Families: TANF Reduced/Cut*	% of Homeless Families: TANF cuts Resulted in Limbo Care
Nationwide	37	6	Nationwide	37	6
Atlanta, GA	22	13	New Orleans, LA	23	0
Baltimore, MD	41	8	New York, NY	40	0
Bucks Co., PA	59	12	Norman, OK	27	0
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	31	3	Philadelphia, PA	52	0
Denver, CO	22	0	Phoenix, AZ	35	16
Los Angeles, CA	48	6	Richmond, VA	30	0
Louisiana (statewide)	19	7	Salem/Eugene, OR	25	8
Maryland (statewide)	36	5	Seattle, WA	56	6
Memphis, TN	42	7	South Bend, IN	69	0
Miami, FL	49	11	St. Louis, MO	39	9
Nevada (statewide)	16	67	Trenton, NJ	47	3
Newark, NJ	42	12	Tulsa, OK	23	0

* TANF reductions and cuts occurred in the last year.
Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Photo by Jerry Spratt

Manny

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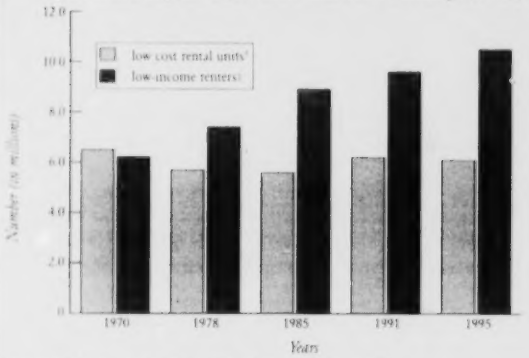
As Time Goes By: A Thirty Year Legacy

As we enter the new millennium, the economy continues to surge; unemployment rates are at their lowest in three decades; and welfare rolls keep plummeting.[1] However, hidden in the shadows of good fortune is a devastating counter-trend. Today in America, over 600,000 families and more than one million children are homeless, living doubled- and tripled-up, in shelters, on the streets, in cars, and on campgrounds.[2,3]

According to a US Conference of Mayors report, requests for emergency shelter by families increased an average of fifteen percent over the past year alone.[4] While this increase is sobering, it is hardly surprising as family homelessness has been on the rise for the last two decades. Today, homeless families make up thirty-eight percent (38%) of the overall homeless population—a portion that is nearly one and a half times what it was in 1985.[5] On one hand, it is necessary to fight this homelessness by addressing low education levels and the lack of job skills. On the other hand, it is important to recognize the factors that have contributed to its dramatic rise—a shortage of affordable housing, a decrease in jobs paying a living wage, and welfare reform.

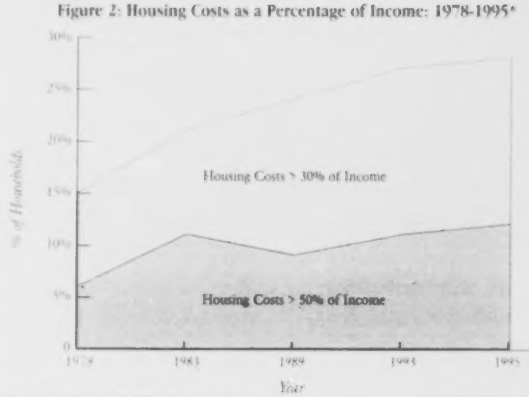
Figure 1: Growing Shortage of Affordable Rental Housing 1970-1995



* "Low cost rental units" refer to housing with rents under $300 per month (in 1995 dollars).
† "Low-income renters" refer to those earning less than $12,000 per year (in 1995 dollars).
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

By 1995, the gap between low income renters and low-cost rental units, non-existent in 1970, widened to over 4.4 million.

Figure 2: Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income: 1978-1995*



* Data included for households with children under 18.
Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

Housing cost burdens for households with children grew by eighty-seven percent from 1978 to 1995. Today, more than one in four households pays more than thirty percent of their income in rent.

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

Affordable Housing Trends

Over the last three decades, the country has experienced a growing shortage of affordable housing. By 1995, the gap between low-income renters and low-cost rental units, non-existent in 1970, had widened to over 4.4 million.[6] (See Figure 1) From 1996 to 1998, the situation worsened as the number of affordable housing units decreased by nineteen percent, or 1.3 million units.[7]

As the stock of affordable housing declines, more families are forced to pay a larger share of their income in rent. In the last twenty years, the proportion of households with children who paid more than thirty percent of their income on housing rose from fifteen percent (15%) to twenty-eight percent (28%).[8] (See Figure 2) The US Department of Housing and Urban Development recognizes that such excessive rent burdens place low-income families at risk of homelessness.[9] Today more than five million households, with four and a half million children, earn less than fifty percent of the local median income and either pay over half of their income in rent, live in severely substandard housing, or both.[10] As a result, millions of children and their families are living on the brink of homelessness. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Worst Case Housing Needs

	Renter Households			Renter Households	
Location	*# Worst Case Needs*	*% at Severe Risk of Homelessness*	*Location*	*# Worst Case Needs*	*% at Severe Risk of Homelessness*
Nationwide	5,300,000	16	Nationwide	5,300,000	16
Atlanta, GA	51,000	12	New Orleans, LA	27,000	14
Baltimore, MD	39,000	12	New York, NY	408,000	20
Bucks Co., PA	N/A	N/A	Norman, OK	N/A	N/A
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	80,000	13	Philadelphia, PA	121,000	22
Denver, CO	27,000	11	Phoenix, AZ	50,000	16
Los Angeles, CA	401,000	26	Richmond, VA	N/A	N/A
Louisiana (statewide)	N/A	N/A	Salem/Eugene, OR†	5,375	24
Maryland (statewide)	N/A	N/A	Seattle, WA	35,000	11
Memphis, TN	16,000	11	South Bend, IN	N/A	N/A
Miami, FL	104,000	33	St. Louis, MO	38,000	13
Nevada (statewide)	N/A	N/A	Trenton, NJ	4,057	28
Newark, NJ*	22,270	25	Tulsa, OK	N/A	N/A

N/A denotes data not available.
* Data refers to all households, not just renter households.
† Salem/Eugene data is for Eugene only.
Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Low Income Housing Coalition, US Department of Commerce

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Good Economy Hurts Working Poor

It seems that the strong economy is partly to blame for the difficulties that many working poor families are now facing. While rents are on the rise, median renter income has not kept pace. Rent increases are now surpassing inflation in all twenty-three US metropolitan areas tracked by the Consumer Price Index.[9] The high costs of housing place even working families at a higher risk of losing their homes. In fact, the fastest growth in worst case housing needs in the 1990s was among working families, rising by twenty-four percent between 1991 and 1995.[10]

POINT *"No child should ever be homeless with all the money and resources floating around. Many empty buildings are such an eye sore. They should be fixed up and lived in."*
Homeless Parent, Baltimore, MD

FACT *Four and a half million children in the United States are at severe risk of becoming homeless.*

This is a familiar story for the many homeless families who come from the ranks of the working poor: one-quarter of homeless families (26%) are currently employed, yet their meager incomes saddle them with severe rent burdens. In some cities, the fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment would require families to spend more than eighty percent of their income on housing, making escaping homelessness virtually impossible.[11] (See Table 2)

Decreasing Value of Wages

Another change contributing to the housing crisis is the decreasing value of wages. From 1979 to 1995, hourly wages for low-wage workers fell seventeen percent, adjusting for inflation—the result of a shift away from higher paying manufacturing jobs to lower paying service positions.[12] These jobs are typically very low-paying or part-time with few or no benefits, leaving employees with minimal resources to care for their families.

POINT *"I wouldn't be here if I had a decent wage. I can't afford to support four children on minimum wage."* Homeless Parent, NJ

FACT *Families who leave welfare typically earn between $8,000 and $10,800 annually—these families would pay more than 50% of their income in rent in every city in this study.*
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Welfare Reform

This economic shift is particularly sobering in light of recent welfare policy changes. More than six million people (two-thirds of them children) have left welfare since 1994—a forty-four percent reduction in caseloads.[13] As families leave the rolls they are forced to compete in a low wage market. Those who find jobs after welfare typically

Shanelle

Table 2: Percent of Homeless Families' Income Spent on Rent

Location	*Fair Market Rent for 2 Bedroom Apt.*	*Homeless Parent Median Monthly Income*	*% of Income Spent on Rent*
Nationwide[1]	$585	$1,039	56
Atlanta, GA	$688	$1,234	56
Baltimore, MD	$628	N/A	N/A
Bucks Co., PA	$722	$1,013	71
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX[2]	$653	$1,039	63
Denver, CO	$664	$1,104	60
Los Angeles, CA	$749	$1,113	67
Louisiana (statewide)	$465	$821	57
Maryland (statewide)	$689	$1,208	57
Memphis, TN	$530	$1,039	51
Miami, FL	$702	$567	124
Nevada (statewide)	$688	$996	69
Newark, NJ	$820	$1,018	81
New Orleans, LA	$520	$823	63
New York, NY	$891	$1,009	88
Norman, OK	$468	$713	66
Philadelphia, PA	$722	$866	83
Phoenix, AZ	$634	$1,039	61
Richmond, VA	$620	$909	68
Salem/Eugene, OR[2]	$583	$1,260	46
Seattle, WA	$736	$1,165	63
South Bend, IN	$556	N/A	N/A
St. Louis, MO	$501	$1,074	47
Trenton, NJ	$810	$909	89
Tulsa, OK	$520	$1,057	49

[1] Nationwide data from 1995, all other figures from 1999.
N/A denotes a response was too small for an accurate comparison.
[2] Figures for Dallas/Ft. Worth and Salem/Eugene are average taken from data for each city.
Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, Institute for Children and Poverty

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earn between $8,000 and $10,800 annually—well below the poverty line for a family of three ($13,880 in 1999).[17, 18] Considering the average fair market rents, those leaving public assistance would end up paying between fifty and seventy-five percent of their income on housing—facing eventual homelessness.

Moreover, welfare reform has wiped out economic gains for poor women. Earnings among the poorest twenty percent of female-headed families fell by seven percent, or $580, from 1995 to 1997. Eighty percent (80%) of this decline is attributable to reductions in government cash and food assistance.[19]

POINT: *I wish adults would... "Spend more money on us and stop sending it to other countries and out of space on rocket stuff."* Homeless Child, TX

FACT: *In Philadelphia, PA, Seattle, WA, and Miami, FL, more than one in five families attribute their homelessness directly to welfare reform.*

Among homeless families, thirty-seven percent (37%) had their welfare benefits reduced or cut in the last year. In Bucks County and Philadelphia, PA, Seattle, WA, and South Bend, IN, more than fifty percent recently had their benefits reduced or cut (59%, 52%, 56%, and 69% respectively). (See Table 3)

The impacts of these reductions have begun to show. One study of six states found that, between 1997 and 1998, twenty-five percent (25%) of families who had stopped getting welfare in the last six months doubled-up on housing to save money, and twenty-three percent (23%) moved because they could not pay rent.[20] Among homeless families who had their benefits reduced or cut, twenty percent (20%) said they became homeless as a result. (See Table 3)

Federal Assistance for Subsidized Housing

Not surprisingly, these trends have forced many families to seek subsidized housing. In fact, *more than half of homeless families (52%) are on subsidized housing waiting lists.* Yet in 1996, for the first time ever, the number of federally assisted housing units fell. In the last year, Section 8 and public housing waiting lists increased by thirty-four percent. This figure greatly underrepresents the problem: many cities have simply closed their waiting lists to the growing demand. In Los Angeles, CA, and Newark, NJ, the wait for Section 8 vouchers is now ten years.[21] (See Figure 3)

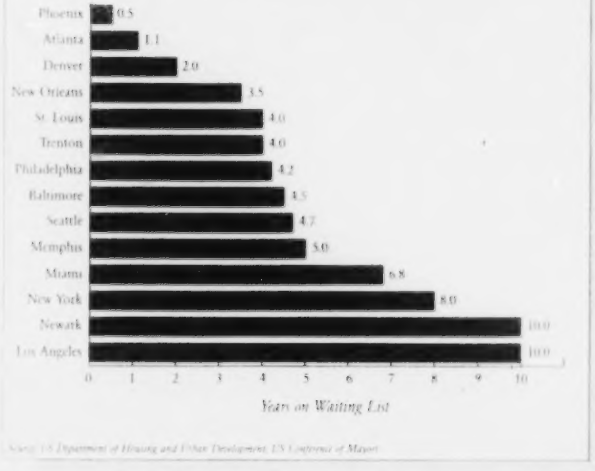
Table 3: Impact of Welfare (TANF) Reductions on Homeless Families

Location	% of Homeless Families: TANF Reduced/Cut	% of Homeless Families: Resulted in Homelessness	Location	% of Homeless Families: TANF Reduced/Cut	% of Homeless Families: Resulted in Homelessness
Nationwide	37	20	Nationwide	37	20
Atlanta, GA	22	50	New Orleans, LA	23	13
Baltimore, MD	43	29	New York, NY	40	13
Bucks Co., PA	59	16	Norman, OK	27	0
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	31	11	Philadelphia, PA	52	42
Denver, CO	22	13	Phoenix, AZ	35	31
Los Angeles, CA	48	25	Richmond, VA	30	27
Louisiana (statewide)	19	29	Salem/Eugene, OR	25	33
Maryland (statewide)	36	29	Seattle, WA	56	38
Memphis, TN	42	0	South Bend, IN	69	0
Miami, FL	49	50	St. Louis, MO	39	9
Nevada (statewide)	16	67	Trenton, NJ	47	9
Newark, NJ	42	12	Tulsa, OK	23	14

Source: Institute for Children and Poverty

Gerardo

Figure 3: Length of Wait for Section 8 in Selected Cities



Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Conference of Mayors

The waiting lists for subsidized housing have grown so large that families must now wait years for Section 8 vouchers or certificates. In Newark, NJ, and Los Angeles, CA, families wait ten years.

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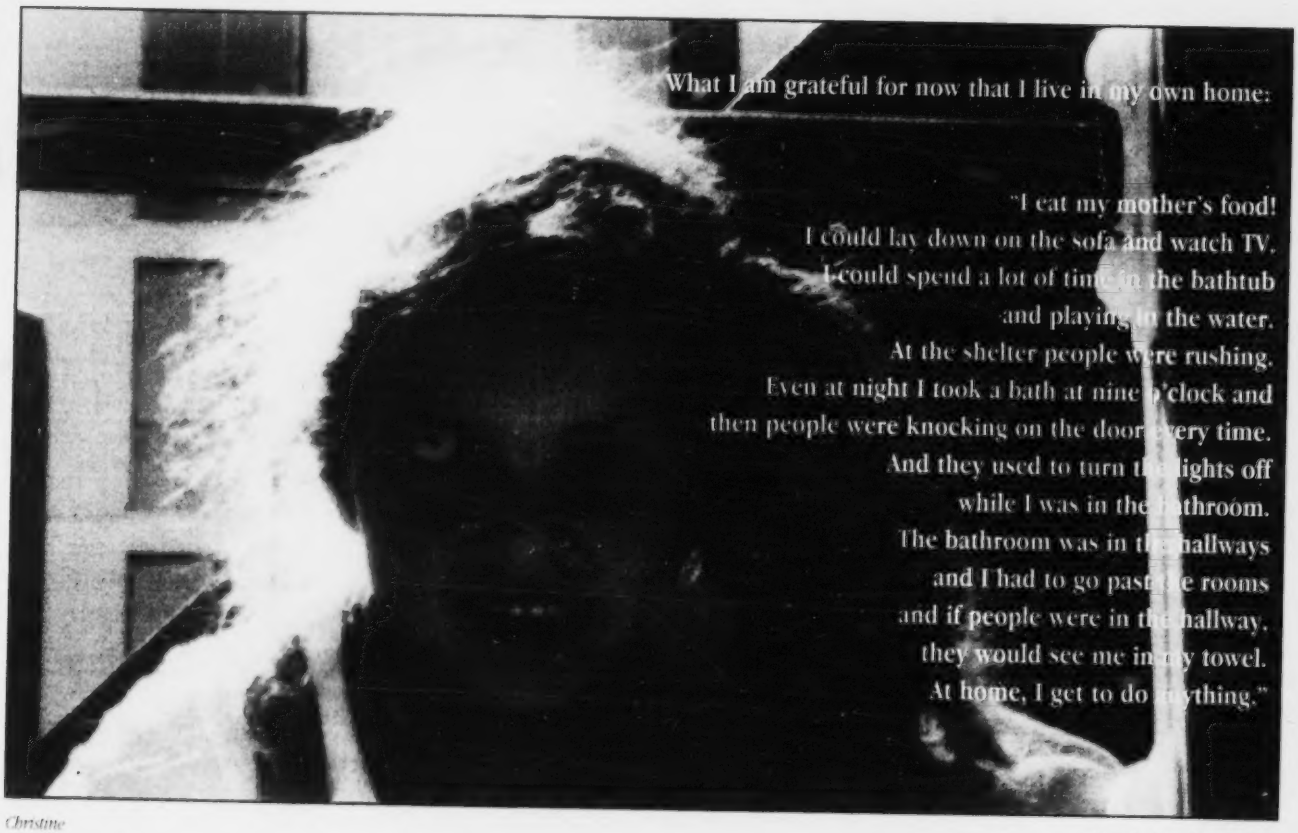
AMERICA AT THE END OF A CENTURY: PROGRESS OR PERIL?

Over the last twenty years, the response to the explosion in family homelessness has been, at best, the provision of shelter and services, and at worst, ignorance and neglect. Despite efforts made on behalf of the homeless, nearly half of all children nationwide who need shelter (49%) do not receive it.[2] Moreover, welfare reform has seriously jeopardized the safety net that previously prevented many families from becoming homeless.

Ending family homelessness will require more aggressive solutions than ever before. Children need policies that will promote stable housing and ensure access to a good education, preventive health care, and adequate nutrition. Parents need the tools—education, job training, child care, income supports, and affordable housing—that will lift them out of homelessness and provide greater stability and security for their children.

Anthony


What I am grateful for now that I live in my own home:
"I eat my mother's food!
I could lay down on the sofa and watch TV.
I could spend a lot of time in the bathtub
and playing in the water.
At the shelter people were rushing.
Even at night I took a bath at nine o'clock and
then people were knocking on the door every time.
And they used to turn the lights off
while I was in the bathroom.
The bathroom was in the hallways
and I had to go past the rooms
and if people were in the hallway,
they would see me in my towel.
At home, I get to do anything."

Christine
American Family Inn

Poem by Homeless Child, TX

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Left out in the Cold: Gaps Analysis

There can be no doubt that the true victims of homelessness are children. Yet, regardless of *why* so many families face homelessness, the fact remains that the number of children who lack shelter is growing. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development conducts regular Gaps Analyses to identify inequities between the demand and supply of shelter beds in order to address the remaining unmet need. These analyses found that, nationwide, almost half of children seeking shelter (49%) are being left to fend for themselves. In Las Vegas, NV, and Memphis, TN, that number is as high as eighty-two percent (82%). Even in cities where it is comparatively low, nearly one in five homeless children still have no place to stay. (See Table 1) We have seen what happens to children's education and health once they become homeless; we have noted the violence and despair in their lives. Without the basic provision of shelter, the future for these children appears bleak.

Table 1: Supply and Demand of Shelter Beds for Children and Families in Selected Cities

	Supply of Shelter Beds		*Demand for Shelter Beds*		*Need for Shelter Beds (Gap)*		*Estimated % of Children Unsheltered*
City	*Individuals in Families*	*Children**	*Individuals in Families*	*Children**	*Individuals in Families*	*Children**	
Atlanta, GA	1,129	790	2,409	1,686	1,280	896	53%
Baltimore, MD	1,174	822	1,349	944	175	123	13%
Carson City, NV	160	112	739	517	579	405	78%
Dallas, TX	380	266	493	345	113	79	23%
Denver, CO	2,305	1,614	2,750	1,925	445	312	16%
Eugene, OR	586	410	983	688	397	278	40%
Lafayette, LA	204	143	730	511	526	368	72%
Las Vegas, NV	1,007	705	5,660	3,962	4,653	3,257	82%
Los Angeles, CA	5,097	3,568	9,528	6,670	4,431	3,102	47%
Memphis, TN	525	368	2,880	2,016	2,355	1,649	82%
Miami, FL	1,100	770	2,026	1418	926	648	46%
Newark, NJ	600	420	2,250	1,575	1,650	1,155	73%
New Orleans, LA	137	96	270	189	133	93	49%
New York, NY	15,312	10,718	15,312†	10,718†	N/A	N/A	N/A
Norman, OK	36	25	90	63	54	38	60%
Philadelphia, PA	1,344	941	6,734	4,714	5,390	3,773	80%
Phoenix, AZ	3,202	2,241	5,202	3,641	2,000	1,400	38%
Reno, NV	364	255	7,290	5,103	6,926	4,848	95%
Richmond, VA	203	142	403	282	200	140	50%
Salem, OR	160	112	208	146	48	34	23%
Seattle, WA	745	522	1,463	1,024	718	503	49%
South Bend, IN	134	94	210	147	76	53	36%
St. Louis, MO	809	566	3,659	2,561	2,850	1,995	78%
Trenton, NJ	175	123	420	294	245	172	58%
Tulsa, OK	557	390	292	204	-	-	-
Total	37,445	26,212	73,350	51,345	36,170	25,321	49%

** Data drawn from HUD-reported figures for families, numbers for children were estimated to account for seventy percent of family members.*
† New York, NY, data is misleading as it excludes the thousands of families who are doubled- or tripled-up, and currently ineligible for shelter under New York City Department of Homeless Services guidelines.
Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Institute for Children and Poverty

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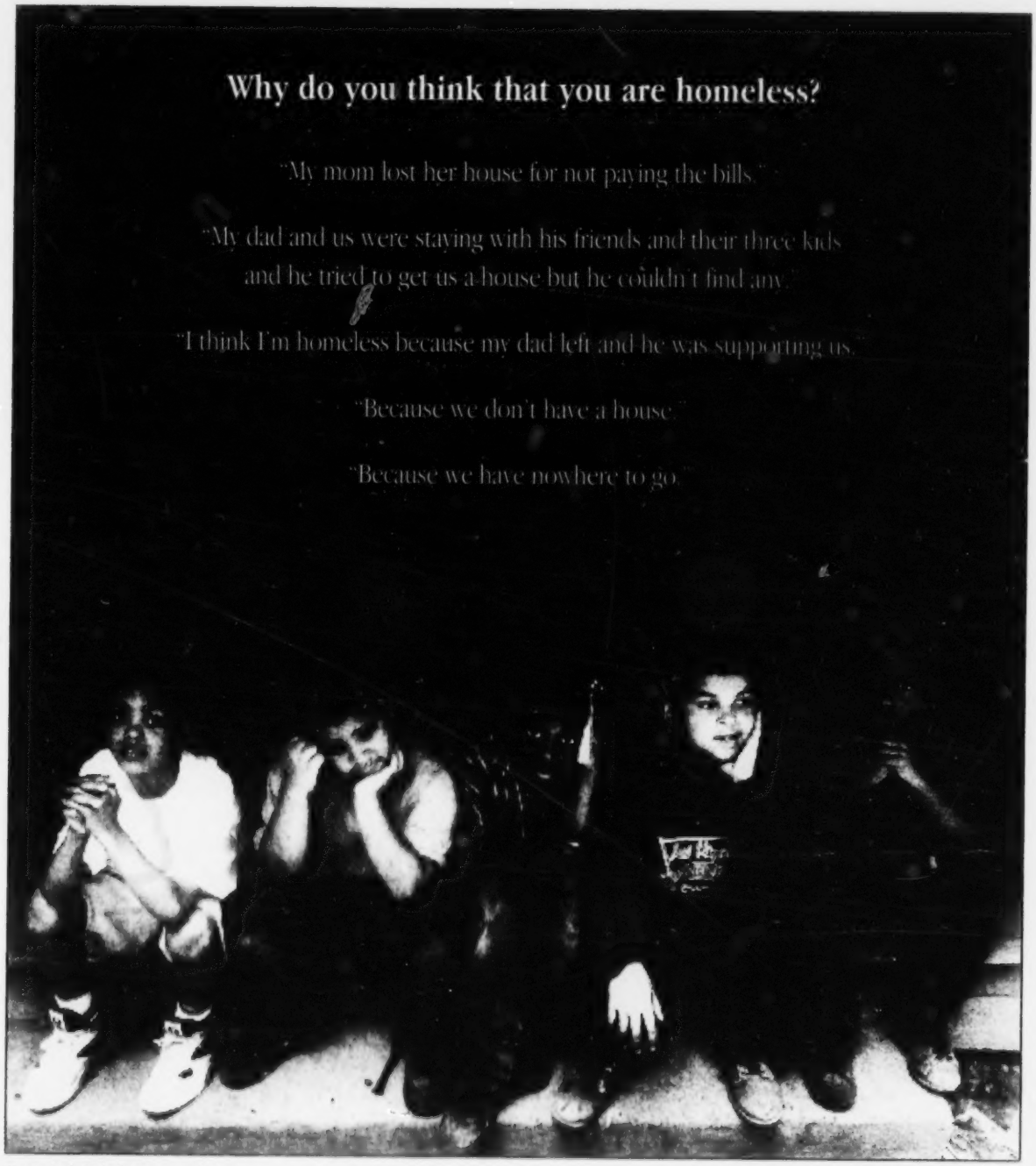
Why do you think that you are homeless?
"My mom lost her house for not paying the bills."
"My dad and us were staying with his friends and their three kids and he tried to get us a house but he couldn't find any."
"I think I'm homeless because my dad left and he was supporting us."
"Because we don't have a house."
"Because we have nowhere to go."

Devon, Jack, Malcolm, Terry, and Jamie
American Family Inn

Responses from Homeless Children, Bucks County, PA

Appendix

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Nationwide

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 4141
Sex	%
Female	49
Male	52
Age (Mean: 6.5)	%
< 5 years	41
5-17 years	59
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	65
Asian	1
Latino	15
Native American	2
White	16
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	73
Twice or More	27
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	20
Sick More Often Since Homeless	26
Do Not Eat Enough	19
Eat Less Since Homeless	25
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	12
Fearful/Anxious	6
Depressed/Sad	8
Negative Combination	15
Stayed the Same	54
Calm/Secure	2
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	40
Witnessed Community Violence	17
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	91
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	12
Grades 1-6	65
Grades 7-12	23
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	66
In Special Education Classes	16
Taunted for Being Homeless	14
Repeated a Grade	20
Changed Schools (in last year)	55
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.6)	%
Once	65
Twice or More	35
	%
Missed > 1 Weeks of School (in last year)	12
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	33
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	51
Problems Enrolling	19
Stress of Homelessness	14
No Transportation	10
Child Too Tired or Refused	4
Lack of School Supplies	2
Multiple Reasons	19

Homeless Parent Demographics	N=1904
Sex	%
Female	95
Male	6
Age (Median: 30)	%
< 25	26
Marital Status	%
Single	80
# of Children (Mean: 2.8)	%
One	22
Two	29
Three or More	49
Education Level	%
< High School	41
Employment	%
Employed	26
Annual Income (Median: $12,480)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	93
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	8
Two or Three	73
Four or More	20
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	56
Family or Friends	33
Welfare Hotel or Motel	5
A Shelter	20
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	2
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campgrounds	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	30
Overcrowded/Disagreement	25
Domestic Violence	12
Substandard Housing	4
Transferred From Another Shelter	15
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 9.6)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	63
Twice or More	37
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (in a Period of 6 months)	%
≥ 2 Years	30
< 2 years	52
Never	18
Currently receiving	%
TANF	57
Food Stamps	67
Medicaid	53
TANF Reduced (in last year)	37
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	20
Put Child In (into) Care	5
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	15
History of Substance Abuse	46

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
1 Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
Q Please See Definition of Terms.

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Atlanta, Georgia

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 88
Sex	%
Female	53
Male	47
Age (Mean: 7.0)	%
< 5 years	38
5-17 years	63
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	88
Asian	0
Latino	1
Native American	0
White	7
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	83
Twice or More	17
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	14
Sick More Often Since Homeless	27
Do Not Eat Enough	13
Eat Less Since Homeless	25
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	6
Fearful/Anxious	2
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination	12
Stayed the Same	67
Calm/Secure	6
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	31
Witnessed Community Violence	6
Experienced Youth Violence	1
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	98
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	15
Grades 1-6	64
Grades 7-12	19
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	77
In Special Education Classes	11
Taunted for Being Homeless	6
Repeated a Grade	18
Changed Schools (in last year)	60
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	60
Twice or More	40
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	2
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	18
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	0
Problems Enrolling	13
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	50
Child Too Tired or Refused	0
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	38

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
** Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.*
[1] Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N=42
Sex	%
Female	98
Male	2
Age (Median: 34)	%
< 25	14
Marital Status	%
Single	90
# of Children (Mean: 2.7)	%
One	27
Two	22
Three or More	51
Education Level	%
< High School	10
Employment	%
Employed	22
Annual Income (Median: $14,820)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	57
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.7)	%
One	11
Two or Three	68
Four or More	22
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	33
Family or Friends	24
Welfare Hotel or Motel	5
A Shelter	36
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campgrounds	2
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	37
Overcrowded/Disagreement	22
Domestic Violence	10
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	12
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 6.7)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	78
Twice or More	22
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	8
< 2 years	62
Never	31
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	34
Food Stamps	45
Medicaid	52
TANF Reduced (in last year)	22
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	50
Put Child In Limbo Care	13
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	5
History of Substance Abuse	21

Baltimore, Maryland

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 155
Sex	%
Female	51
Male	49
Age (Mean: 5.8)	%
< 5 years	45
5-17 years	56
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	90
Asian	0
Latino	2
Native American	0
White	6
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	70
Twice or More	30
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	18
Sick More Often Since Homeless	19
Do Not Eat Enough	22
Eat less Since Homeless	24
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	10
Fearful/Anxious	12
Depressed/Sad	12
Negative Combination	5
Stayed the Same	52
Calm/Secure	8
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	55
Witnessed Community Violence	27
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	92
Grade	%
Preschool	5
Kindergarten	24
Grades 1-6	55
Grades 7-12	19
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	66
In Special Education Classes	15
Taunted for Being Homeless	8
Repeated a Grade	11
Changed Schools (in last year)	63
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	65
Twice or More	35
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	14
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	37
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	48
Problems Enrolling	5
Stress of Homelessness	35
No Transportation	5
Child Too Tired or Refused	5
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	5

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[1] Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[2] Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N=72
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	26
Marital Status	%
Single	85
# of Children (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	25
Two	24
Three or More	51
Education Level	%
< High School	44
Employment	%
Employed	7
Annual Income (Median: $21,476)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	20
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	3
Two or Three	80
Four or More	17
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	42
Family or Friends	31
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	23
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campgrounds	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	17
Overcrowded/Disagreement	18
Domestic Violence	32
Substandard Housing	6
Transferred From Another Shelter	7
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 6.6)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	58
Twice or More	42
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	51
< 2 years	39
Never	10
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	69
Food Stamps	65
Medicaid	57
TANF Reduced (in last year)	43
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	29
Put Child In Limbo Care	8
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	13
History of Substance Abuse	63

Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Homeless Child Demographics		N= 123
Sex		%
Female		53
Male		47
Age (Mean: 6.2)		%
< 5 years		44
5-17 years		56
Race/Ethnicity		%
African American		39
Asian		0
Latino		8
Native American		0
White		39
# of Times Homeless		%
Once		83
Twice or More		17
Health and Nutrition		%
Have Asthma		17
Sick More Often Since Homeless		33
Do Not Eat Enough		17
Eat Less Since Homeless		28
Emotional Impact of Homeless		%
Angry/Aggressive		18
Fearful/Anxious		4
Depressed/Sad		5
Negative Combination		23
Stayed the Same		43
Calm/Secure		6
Violence[1]		%
Witnessed Domestic Violence		38
Witnessed Community Violence		13
Experienced Youth Violence		3
Education (Children Ages 5-17)		%
Currently Enrolled in School		97
Grade	%	
Preschool	9	
Kindergarten	16	
Grades 1-6	49	
Grades 7-12	25	
		%
Attended Preschool or Head Start		71
In Special Education Classes		28
Taunted for Being Homeless		17
Repeated a Grade		20
Changed Schools (in last year)		52
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.7)	%	
Once	64	
Twice or More	36	
		%
Missed > 1 Weeks of School (in last year)		8
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)		44
Reason for Missing School	%	
Illness	50	
Problems Enrolling	25	
Stress of Homelessness	13	
No Transportation	9	
Child Too Tired or Refused	0	
Lack of School Supplies	0	
Multiple Reasons	5	

Homeless Parent Demographics		N=60
Sex		%
Female		93
Male		7
Age (Median: 30)		%
< 25		32
Marital Status		%
Single		90
# of Children (Mean: 2.7)		%
One		20
Two		42
Three or More		38
Education Level		%
< High School		22
Employment		%
Employed		42
Annual Income (Median: $12,168)		
Time Employed	%	
≥ 6 months	32	
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.0)		%
One		4
Two or Three		67
Four or More		30
Last Place of Residence		%
Own Apartment or House		19
Family or Friends		35
Welfare Hotel or Motel		9
A Shelter		28
Shack/Shanty/Trailer		5
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground		2
Reason Left Last Residence		%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted		28
Overcrowded/Disagreement		28
Domestic Violence		11
Substandard Housing		4
Transferred From Another Shelter		13
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 13.0)		
# of Times Homeless		%
Once		70
Twice or More		30
Public Assistance History		
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)		%
≥ 2 Years		20
< 2 years		66
Never		14
Currently receiving:		%
TANF		59
Food Stamps		76
Medicaid		51
TANF Reduced (in last year)		59
Impacts of Reductions	%	
Became Homeless	16	
Put Child In Limbo Care	12	
Social Indicators		%
History of Foster Care as Child		10
History of Substance Abuse		53

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[1] Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[2] Please See Definition of Terms.

Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 247**
Sex	%
Female	50
Male	50
Age (Mean: 5.5)	%
< 5 years	49
5-17 years	51
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	70
Asian	0
Latino	12
Native American	0
White	15
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	78
Twice or More	22
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	20
Sick More Often Since Homeless	25
Do Not Eat Enough	11
Eat Less Since Homeless	18
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	11
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	5
Negative Combination	9
Stayed the Same	58
Calm/Secure	9
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	37
Witnessed Community Violence	16
Experienced Youth Violence	2
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	96
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	18
Grades 1-6	63
Grades 7-12	15
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	74
In Special Education Classes	12
Taunted for Being Homeless	11
Repeated a Grade	13
Changed Schools (in last year)	55
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	61
Twice or More	39
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	4
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	16
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	53
Problems Enrolling	13
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	0
Child Too Tired or Refused	20
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	13

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 125**
Sex	%
Female	99
Male	1
Age (Median: 30)	%
< 25	27
Marital Status	%
Single	86
# of Children (Mean: 2.5)	%
One	20
Two	42
Three or More	38
Education Level	%
< High School	26
Employment	%
Employed	45
Annual Income (Median: $12,480)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	45
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.8)	%
One	12
Two or Three	66
Four or More	22
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	22
Family or Friends	31
Welfare Hotel or Motel	4
A Shelter	38
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	2
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	24
Overcrowded/Disagreement	21
Domestic Violence	8
Substandard Housing	4
Transferred From Another Shelter	37
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 10.7)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	64
Twice or More	36
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	21
< 2 years	50
Never	29
Currently receiving	%
TANF	28
Food Stamps	45
Medicaid	39
TANF Reduced (in last year)	31
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	11
Put Child In Limbo Care	5
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	9
History of Substance Abuse	36

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡‡ Please See Definition of Terms.

Denver, Colorado

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 148
Sex	%
Female	47
Male	54
Age (Mean: 5.2)	%
< 5 years	59
5-17 years	41
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	46
Asian	0
Latino	20
Native American	4
White	18
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	71
Twice or More	29
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	23
Sick More Often Since Homeless	37
Do Not Eat Enough	16
Eat Less Since Homeless	21
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	13
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination	17
Stayed the Same	55
Calm/Secure	1
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	36
Witnessed Community Violence	11
Experienced Youth Violence	4
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	72
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	14
Grades 1-6	67
Grades 7-12	16
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	67
In Special Education Classes	25
Taunted for Being Homeless	13
Repeated a Grade	10
Changed Schools (in last year)	64
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.8)	%
Once	41
Twice or More	59
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	10
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	36
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	12
Problems Enrolling	12
Stress of Homelessness	12
No Transportation	0
Child Too Tired or Refused	0
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	65

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 78
Sex	%
Female	85
Male	15
Age (Median: 32)	%
< 25	34
Marital Status	%
Single	60
# of Children (Mean: 2.7)	%
One	33
Two	16
Three or More	51
Education Level	%
< High School	42
Employment	%
Employed	22
Annual Income (Median: $13,260)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	20
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.6)	%
One	6
Two or Three	68
Four or More	26
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	57
Family or Friends	17
Welfare Hotel or Motel	8
A Shelter	13
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	1
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	45
Overcrowded/Disagreement	10
Domestic Violence	10
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	10
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 4.3)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	52
Twice or More	48
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	12
< 2 years	40
Never	48
Currently receiving	%
TANF	29
Food Stamps	37
Medicaid	48
TANF Reduced (in last year)	22
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	15
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	27
History of Substance Abuse	50

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡‡ Please See Definition of Terms.

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Los Angeles, California

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 171
Sex	%
Female	48
Male	52
Age (Mean: 6.3)	%
< 5 years	42
5-17 years	59
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	65
Asian	0
Latino	28
Native American	0
White	3
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	77
Twice or More	23
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	11
Sick More Often Since Homeless	19
Do Not Eat Enough	11
Eat Less Since Homeless	25
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	13
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	16
Negative Combination	11
Stayed the Same	43
Calm/Secure	9
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	31
Witnessed Community Violence	7
Experienced Youth Violence	1
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	94
Grade	%
Preschool	5
Kindergarten	9
Grades 1-6	65
Grades 7-12	20
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	76
In Special Education Classes	16
Taunted for Being Homeless	16
Repeated a Grade	10
Changed Schools (in last year)	53
Number of Changes (Mean: 2.1)	%
Once	61
Twice or More	40
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	7
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	36
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	62
Problems Enrolling	7
Stress of Homelessness	13
No Transportation	16
Child Too Tired or Refused	0
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	23

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 78
Sex	%
Female	96
Male	4
Age (Median: 30)	%
< 25	25
Marital Status	%
Single	85
# of Children (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	25
Two	34
Three or More	42
Education Level	%
< High School	41
Employment	%
Employed	16
Annual Income (Median: $15,564)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	64
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	8
Two or Three	71
Four or More	21
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	33
Family or Friends	57
Welfare Hotel or Motel	3
A Shelter	15
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	57
Overcrowded/Disagreement	29
Domestic Violence	3
Substandard Housing	0
Transferred From Another Shelter	17
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 8.0)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	65
Twice or More	36
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	49
< 2 years	46
Never	5
Currently receiving	%
TANF	91
Food Stamps	74
Medicaid	18
TANF Reduced (in last year)	48
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	25
Put Child In Limbo Care	6
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	12
History of Substance Abuse	35

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡‡ Please See Definition of Terms.

Louisiana (statewide)

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 335
Sex	%
Female	50
Male	50
Age (Mean: 7.4)	%
< 5 years	30
5-17 years	70
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	74
Asian	1
Latino	7
Native American	0
White	18
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	70
Twice or More	30
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	15
Sick More Often Since Homeless	12
Do Not Eat Enough	12
Eat Less Since Homeless	15
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	9
Fearful/Anxious	5
Depressed/Sad	7
Negative Combination	10
Stayed the Same	60
Calm/Secure	9
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	39
Witnessed Community Violence	21
Experienced Youth Violence	7
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	84
Grade	%
Preschool	1
Kindergarten	11
Grades 1-6	65
Grades 7-12	23
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	66
In Special Education Classes	9
Taunted for Being Homeless	12
Repeated a Grade	26
Changed Schools (in last year)	45
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	68
Twice or More	32
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	11
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	27
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	27
Problems Enrolling	24
Stress of Homelessness	9
No Transportation	2
Child Too Tired or Refused	2
Lack of School Supplies	16
Multiple Reasons	20

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 143
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 32)	%
< 25	16
Marital Status	%
Single	76
# of Children (Mean: 3.1)	%
One	17
Two	21
Three or More	62
Education Level	%
< High School	54
Employment	%
Employed	34
Annual Income (Median: $9,880)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	56
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.4)	%
One	28
Two or Three	56
Four or More	16
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	43
Family or Friends	36
Welfare Hotel or Motel	4
A Shelter	8
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	4
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	24
Overcrowded/Disagreement	26
Domestic Violence	22
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	3
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 14.4)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	59
Twice or More	41
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	29
< 2 years	38
Never	32
Currently receiving	%
TANF	39
Food Stamps	63
Medicaid	52
TANF Reduced (in last year)	19
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	29
Put Child In Limbo Care	7
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	11
History of Substance Abuse	36

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
§1 Please See Definition of Terms.

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Maryland (statewide)

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 303
Sex	%
Female	56
Male	44
Age (Mean: 6.1)	%
< 5 years	43
5-17 years	57
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	85
Asian	0
Latino	2
Native American	0
White	9
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	66
Twice or More	34
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	17
Sick More Often Since Homeless	20
Do Not Eat Enough	20
Eat less Since Homeless	20
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	13
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	10
Negative Combination	9
Stayed the Same	51
Calm/Secure	9
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	47
Witnessed Community Violence	19
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	89
Grade	%
Preschool	1
Kindergarten	7
Grades 1-6	61
Grades 7-12	30
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	64
In Special Education Classes	18
Taunted for Being Homeless	11
Repeated a Grade	19
Changed Schools (in last year)	58
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.4)	%
Once	53
Twice or More	47
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	13
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	30
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	32
Problems Enrolling	10
Stress of Homelessness	21
No Transportation	10
Child Too Tired or Refused	6
Lack of School Supplies	8
Multiple Reasons	2

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 139
Sex	%
Female	96
Male	4
Age (Median: 30)	%
< 25	23
Marital Status	%
Single	82
# of Children (Mean: 2.8)	%
One	21
Two	25
Three or More	54
Education Level	%
< High School	42
Employment	%
Employed	20
Annual Income (Median: $14,508)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	46
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.5)	%
One	5
Two or Three	84
Four or More	11
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	40
Family or Friends	37
Welfare Hotel or Motel	4
A Shelter	17
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	29
Overcrowded/Disagreement	19
Domestic Violence	24
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	4
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 6.3)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	59
Twice or More	41
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	27
< 2 years	57
Never	16
Currently receiving	%
TANF	53
Food Stamps	60
Medicaid	45
TANF Reduced (in last year)	36
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	29
Put Child In Limbo Care	5
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	12
History of Substance Abuse	54

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
§2 Please See Definition of Terms.

Memphis, Tennessee

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 213
Sex	%
Female	47
Male	53
Age (Mean: 5.7)	%
< 5 years	49
5-17 years	51
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	95
Asian	0
Latino	2
Native American	0
White	1
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	72
Twice or More	28
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	7
Sick More Often Since Homeless	7
Do Not Eat Enough	7
Eat Less Since Homeless	10
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	9
Fearful/Anxious	11
Depressed/Sad	5
Negative Combination	3
Stayed the Same	65
Calm/Secure	8
ViolenceΩ	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	55
Witnessed Community Violence	12
Experienced Youth Violence	4
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	91
Grade	%
Preschool	5
Kindergarten	11
Grades 1-6	68
Grades 7-12	18
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	67
In Special Education Classes	12
Taunted for Being Homeless	2
Repeated a Grade	21
Changed Schools (in last year)	55
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	80
Twice or More	20
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	12
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	21
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	0
Problems Enrolling	10
Stress of Homelessness	45
No Transportation	10
Child Too Tired or Refused	5
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	30

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 93
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	31
Marital Status	%
Single	90
# of Children (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	25
Two	25
Three or More	50
Education Level	%
< High School	58
Employment	%
Employed	39
Annual Income (Median: $12,480)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	80
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.5)	%
One	8
Two or Three	78
Four or More	14
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	31
Family or Friends	45
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	20
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	52
Overcrowded/Disagreement	40
Domestic Violence	7
Substandard Housing	1
Transferred From Another Shelter	10
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 8.2)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	60
Twice or More	40
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	38
< 2 years	46
Never	16
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	56
Food Stamps	71
Medicaid	51
TANF Reduced (in last year)	42
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	0
Put Child In Limbo Care	*
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	10
History of Substance Abuse	37

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
** Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.*
Ω Please See Definition of Terms.

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Miami, Florida

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 139
Sex	%
Female	54
Male	46
Age (Mean: 8.1)	%
< 5 years	27
5-17 years	73
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	52
Asian	0
Latino	30
Native American	1
White	17
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	75
Twice or More	25
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	30
Sick More Often Since Homeless	21
Do Not Eat Enough	50
Eat Less Since Homeless	50
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	14
Fearful/Anxious	6
Depressed/Sad	10
Negative Combination	5
Stayed the Same	61
Calm/Secure	4
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	27
Witnessed Community Violence	21
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	91
Grade	%
Preschool	1
Kindergarten	11
Grades 1-6	61
Grades 7-12	27
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	53
In Special Education Classes	17
Taunted for Being Homeless	17
Repeated a Grade	24
Changed Schools (in last year)	77
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	77
Twice or More	23
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	17
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	43
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	20
Problems Enrolling	0
Stress of Homelessness	40
No Transportation	13
Child Too Tired or Relaxed	7
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	20

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 51
Sex	%
Female	88
Male	12
Age (Median: 34)	%
< 25	12
Marital Status	%
Single	87
# of Children (Mean: 3.0)	%
One	14
Two	35
Three or More	51
Education Level	%
< High School	41
Employment	%
Employed	13
Annual Income (Median: $6,812)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	25
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.4)	%
One	2
Two or Three	85
Four or More	13
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	53
Family or Friends	25
Welfare Hotel or Motel	2
A Shelter	14
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	4
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	56
Overcrowded/Disagreement	20
Domestic Violence	8
Substandard Housing	2
Transferred From Another Shelter	2
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 9.9)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	68
Twice or More	32
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	14
< 2 years	65
Never	20
Currently receiving	%
TANF	59
Food Stamps	67
Medicaid	41
TANF Reduced (in last year)	49
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	50
Put Child In Limbo Care	11
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	20
History of Substance Abuse	50

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[1] Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[2] Photo: See Definition of Terms.

Nevada (statewide)

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 132
Sex	%
Female	44
Male	56
Age (Mean: 8.0)	%
< 5 years	26
5-17 years	74
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	11
Asian	3
Latino	28
Native American	2
White	51
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	47
Twice or More	53
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	9
Sick More Often Since Homeless	25
Do Not Eat Enough	31
Eat Less Since Homeless	28
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	12
Fearful/Anxious	2
Depressed/Sad	10
Negative Combination	25
Stayed the Same	45
Calm/Secure	5
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	57
Witnessed Community Violence	17
Experienced Youth Violence	7
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	91
Grade	%
Preschool	0
Kindergarten	8
Grades 1-6	72
Grades 7-12	20
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	39
In Special Education Classes	12
Taunted for Being Homeless	30
Repeated a Grade	12
Changed Schools (in last year)	43
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	60
Twice or More	41
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	14
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	46
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	25
Problems Enrolling	10
Stress of Homelessness	5
No Transportation	5
Child Too Tired or Refused	3
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	54

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[1] Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[2] Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 59
Sex	%
Female	86
Male	14
Age (Median: 35)	%
< 25	7
Marital Status	%
Single	59
# of Children (Mean: 2.8)	%
One	24
Two	28
Three or More	48
Education Level	%
< High School	45
Employment	%
Employed	36
Annual Income (Median: $11,900)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	45
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.1)	%
One	13
Two or Three	60
Four or More	27
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	32
Family or Friends	25
Welfare Hotel or Motel	14
A Shelter	3
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	7
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	12
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	42
Overcrowded/Disagreement	24
Domestic Violence	7
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	3
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 25.1)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	38
Twice or More	62
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	16
< 2 years	60
Never	24
Currently receiving	%
TANF	26
Food Stamps	46
Medicaid	46
TANF Reduced (in last year)	16
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	67
Put Child In Limbo Care	67
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	15
History of Substance Abuse	66

Newark, New Jersey

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 129**
Sex	%
Female	40
Male	61
Age (Mean: 6.2)	%
< 5 years	43
5-17 years	57
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	95
Asian	0
Latino	2
Native American	0
White	1
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	70
Twice or More	30
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	22
Sick More Often Since Homeless	29
Do Not Eat Enough	25
Eat Less Since Homeless	17
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	8
Fearful/Anxious	7
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination†	6
Stayed the Same	66
Calm/Secure	8
Violence‡	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	57
Witnessed Community Violence	17
Experienced Youth Violence	1
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	84
Grade	%
Preschool	0
Kindergarten	10
Grades 1-6	74
Grades 7-12	18
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	71
In Special Education Classes	20
Taunted for Being Homeless	6
Repeated a Grade	24
Changed Schools (in last year)	32
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.1)	%
Once	92
Twice or More	8
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	23
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	23
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	21
Problems Enrolling	14
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	43
Child Too Tired or Refused	21
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	0

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 64**
Sex	%
Female	98
Male	2
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	21
Marital Status	%
Single	91
# of Children (Mean: 2.8)	%
One	27
Two	27
Three or More	47
Education Level	%
< High School	45
Employment	%
Employed	15
Annual Income (Median: $12,220)	
Time Employed	%
> 6 months	33
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.4)	%
One	12
Two or Three	78
Four or More	10
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	33
Family or Friends	42
Welfare Hotel or Motel	9
A Shelter	14
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	48
Overcrowded/Disagreement	34
Domestic Violence	8
Substandard Housing	2
Transferred From Another Shelter	2
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 7.4)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	68
Twice or More	32
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	43
< 2 years	52
Never	5
Currently receiving	%
TANF	91
Food Stamps	78
Medicaid	75
TANF Reduced (in last year)	42
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	12
Put Child In Limbo Care	12
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	9
History of Substance Abuse	72

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡ Please See Definition of Terms.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 167
Sex	%
Female	52
Male	48
Age (Mean: 7.3)	%
< 5 years	31
5-17 years	69
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	96
Asian	0
Latino	0
Native American	0
White	4
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	75
Twice or More	25
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	18
Sick More Often Since Homeless	12
Do Not Eat Enough	8
Eat Less Since Homeless	13
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	7
Fearful/Anxious	-
Depressed/Sad	11
Negative Combination	11
Stayed the Same	61
Calm/Secure	4
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	37
Witnessed Community Violence	22
Experienced Youth Violence	6
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	76
Grade	%
Preschool	0
Kindergarten	11
Grades 1-6	65
Grades 7-12	26
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	69
In Special Education Classes	7
Taunted for Being Homeless	6
Repeated a Grade	27
Changed Schools (in last year)	39
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.6)	%
Once	58
Twice or More	42
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	19
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	26
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	9
Problems Enrolling	26
Stress of Homelessness	17
No Transportation	4
Child Too Tired or Refused	0
Lack of School Supplies	13
Multiple Reasons	30

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 67
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 33)	%
< 25	12
Marital Status	%
Single	78
# of Children (Mean: 3.2)	%
One	11
Two	18
Three or More	71
Education Level	%
< High School	49
Employment	%
Employed	43
Annual Income (Median: $9,880)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	56
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.4)	%
One	14
Two or Three	72
Four or More	14
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	45
Family or Friends	31
Welfare Hotel or Motel	2
A Shelter	13
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	5
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	23
Overcrowded/Disagreement	21
Domestic Violence	20
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	8
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 11.2)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	69
Twice or More	31
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	44
< 2 years	38
Never	18
Currently receiving	%
TANF	52
Food Stamps	67
Medicaid	61
TANF Reduced (in last year)	25
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	13
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	14
History of Substance Abuse	34

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
1 Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[1] Please See Definition of Terms.

New York, New York

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 503
Sex	%
Female	46
Male	55
Age (Mean: 5.9)	%
< 5 years	49
5-17 years	51
Race Ethnicity	%
African American	56
Asian	2
Latino	34
Native American	1
White	1
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	88
Twice or More	12
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	34
Sick More Often Since Homeless	40
Do Not Eat Enough	25
Eat Less Since Homeless	35
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	18
Fearful/Anxious	3
Depressed/Sad	10
Negative Combination	9
Stayed the Same	56
Calm/Secure	3
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	26
Witnessed Community Violence	11
Experienced Youth Violence	3
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	95
Grade	%
Preschool	2
Kindergarten	10
Grades 1 to 5	62
Grades 7 to 12	24
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	70
In Special Education Classes	15
Taunted for Being Homeless	19
Repeated a Grade	21
Changed Schools (in last year)	61
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	68
Twice or More	32
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	7
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	25
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	47
Problems Enrolling	18
Stress of Homelessness	15
No Transportation	8
Child Too Tired or Refused	8
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	5

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡ Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N=268
Sex	%
Female	95
Male	5
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	35
Marital Status	%
Single	78
# of Children (Mean: 2.5)	%
One	30
Two	29
Three or More	41
Education Level	%
< High School	49
Employment	%
Employed	19
Annual Income (Median: $12,156)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	41
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.4)	%
One	7
Two or Three	81
Four or More	12
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	52
Family or Friends	32
Welfare Hotel or Motel	7
A Shelter	22
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	1
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	22
Overcrowded/Disagreement	26
Domestic Violence	14
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	22
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 9.5)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	78
Twice or More	22
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	33
< 2 years	61
Never	6
Currently receiving	%
TANF	84
Food Stamps	82
Medicaid	78
TANF Reduced (in last year)	40
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	13
Put Child In Foster Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	10
History of Substance Abuse	21

Norman, Oklahoma

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 37
Sex	%
Female	38
Male	62
Age (Mean: 6.3)	%
< 5 years	46
5-17 years	54
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	11
Asian	0
Latino	8
Native American	8
White	70
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	51
Twice or More	49
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	14
Sick More Often Since Homeless	5
Do Not Eat Enough	9
Eat Less Since Homeless	11
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	11
Fearful/Anxious	14
Depressed/Sad	3
Negative Combination	5
Stayed the Same	60
Calm/Secure	8
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	60
Witnessed Community Violence	16
Experienced Youth Violence	3
Education (Children Ages 5-17*)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	95
Grade	%
Preschool	0
Kindergarten	5
Grades 1-6	75
Grades 7-12	20
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	50
In Special Education Classes	21
Taunted for Being Homeless	10
Repeated a Grade	30
Changed Schools (in last year)	65
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.0)	%
Once	100
Twice or Twice	0
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	0
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	21
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	0
Problems Enrolling	0
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	0
Child Too Tired or Refused	0
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	100

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[1] Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 22
Sex	%
Female	96
Male	5
Age (Median: 32)	%
< 25	27
Marital Status	%
Single	59
# of Children (Mean: 2.1)	%
One	32
Two	46
Three or More	23
Education Level	%
< High School	50
Employment	%
Employed	18
Annual Income (Median: $8,580)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	50
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 4.0)	%
One	5
Two or Three	55
Four or More	41
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	14
Family or Friends	14
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	59
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	14
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	18
Overcrowded/Disagreement	5
Domestic Violence	14
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	41
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 8.1)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	43
Twice or More	57
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	9
< 2 years	64
Never	27
Currently receiving	%
TANF	32
Food Stamps	96
Medicaid	50
TANF Reduced (in last year)	27
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	0
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	9
History of Substance Abuse	96

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 215
Sex	%
Female	48
Male	52
Age (Mean: 7.1)	%
< 5 years	36
5-17 years	64
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	90
Asian	0
Latino	5
Native American	0
White	2
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	83
Twice or More	17
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	22
Sick More Often Since Homeless	41
Do Not Eat Enough	45
Eat Less Since Homeless	51
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	11
Fearful/Anxious	4
Depressed/Sad	10
Negative Combination	17
Stayed the Same	53
Calm/Secure	4
Violence[a]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	35
Witnessed Community Violence	42
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	95
Grade	%
Preschool	1
Kindergarten	13
Grades 1-6	54
Grades 7-12	32
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	54
In Special Education Classes	6
Taunted for Being Homeless	18
Repeated a Grade	28
Changed Schools (in last year)	61
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.6)	%
Once	58
Twice or More	42
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	30
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	54
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	23
Problems Enrolling	38
Stress of Homelessness	4
No Transportation	15
Child Too Tired or Refused	4
Lack of School Supplies	2
Multiple Reasons	15

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 80
Sex	%
Female	90
Male	10
Age (Median: 31)	%
< 25	25
Marital Status	%
Single	88
# of Children (Mean: 3.5)	%
One	15
Two	24
Three or More	61
Education Level	%
< High School	50
Employment	%
Employed	14
Annual Income (Median: $10,400)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	64
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	4
Two or Three	84
Four or More	13
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	36
Family or Friends	41
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	18
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	18
Overcrowded/Disagreement	30
Domestic Violence	5
Substandard Housing	11
Transferred From Another Shelter	15
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 11.0)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	75
Twice or More	25
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	59
< 2 years	41
Never	0
Currently receiving	%
TANF	86
Food Stamps	91
Medicaid	89
TANF Reduced (in last year)	52
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	42
Put Child In Family Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	16
History of Substance Abuse	37

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[a] Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[a] Denotes See Definition of Terms.

Phoenix, Arizona

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 218
Sex	%
Female	51
Male	49
Age (Mean: 6.3)	%
< 5 years	41
5-17 years	59
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	27
Asian	0
Latino	23
Native American	10
White	38
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	58
Twice or More	42
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	21
Sick More Often Since Homeless	36
Do Not Eat Enough	22
Eat Less Since Homeless	28
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	14
Fearful/Anxious	6
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination	11
Stayed the Same	56
Calm/Secure	6
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	51
Witnessed Community Violence	21
Experienced Youth Violence	8
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	87
Grade	%
Preschool	3
Kindergarten	10
Grades 1-6	64
Grades 7-12	23
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	57
In Special Education Classes	18
Taunted for Being Homeless	16
Repeated a Grade	18
Changed Schools (in last year)	76
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.8)	%
Once	52
Twice or More	48
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	15
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	45
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	53
Problems Enrolling	10
Stress of Homelessness	58
No Transportation	-
Child Too Tired or Refused	7
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	5

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
[1] Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 104
Sex	%
Female	92
Male	8
Age (Median: 31)	%
< 25	24
Marital Status	%
Single	75
# of Children (Mean: 3.2)	%
One	21
Two	22
Three or More	57
Education Level	%
< High School	43
Employment	%
Employed	45
Annual Income (Median: $12,480)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	80
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 4.2)	%
One	5
Two or Three	67
Four or More	28
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	34
Family or Friends	42
Welfare Hotel or Motel	5
A Shelter	11
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	2
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	5
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	34
Overcrowded/Disagreement	32
Domestic Violence	10
Substandard Housing	2
Transferred From Another Shelter	8
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 9.7)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	52
Twice or More	48
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	35
< 2 years	43
Never	22
Currently receiving	%
TANF	39
Food Stamps	48
Medicaid	21
TANF Reduced (in last year)	35
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	31
Put Child In Limbo Care	16
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	16
History of Substance Abuse	65

Richmond, Virginia

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 90**
Sex	%
Female	41
Male	59
Age (Mean: 6.0)	%
< 5 years	42
5-17 years	58
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	80
Asian	0
Latino	2
Native American	0
White	11
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	50
Twice or More	50
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	30
Sick More Often Since Homeless	30
Do Not Eat Enough	15
Eat Less Since Homeless	24
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	5
Fearful/Anxious	3
Depressed/Sad	8
Negative Combination	9
Stayed the Same	64
Calm/Secure	15
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	45
Witnessed Community Violence	16
Experienced Youth Violence	3
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	100
Grade	%
Preschool	2
Kindergarten	17
Grades 1-6	67
Grades 7-12	14
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	87
In Special Education Classes	21
Taunted for Being Homeless	6
Repeated a Grade	15
Changed Schools (in last year)	52
Number of Changes (Mean: 2.1)	%
Once	49
Twice or More	60
	%
Missed > 1 Weeks of School (in last year)	2
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	19
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	14
Problems Enrolling	25
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	0
Child Too Tired or Refused	25
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	58

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 43**
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	25
Marital Status	%
Single	86
# of Children (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	19
Two	44
Three or More	37
Education Level	%
< High School	42
Employment	%
Employed	13
Annual Income (Median: $10,920)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	60
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.1)	%
One	0
Two or Three	83
Four or More	17
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	33
Family or Friends	31
Welfare Hotel or Motel	5
A Shelter	19
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	2
Abandoned Building/Street Car/Campground	2
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	55
Overcrowded/Disagreement	20
Domestic Violence	19
Substandard Housing	0
Transferred From Another Shelter	14
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 5.6)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	51
Twice or More	49
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (in a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	28
< 2 years	49
Never	23
Currently receiving	%
TANF	61
Food Stamps	72
Medicaid	72
TANF Reduced (in last year)	80
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	27
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	16
History of Substance Abuse	67

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
[1] *Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.*
Please See Definition of Terms.

Salem/Eugene, Oregon

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 154
Sex	%
Female	53
Male	47
Age (Mean: 7.7)	%
< 5 years	36
5-17 years	64
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	4
Asian	0
Latino	25
Native American	12
White	57
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	67
Twice or More	33
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	19
Sick More Often Since Homeless	22
Do Not Eat Enough	16
Eat Less Since Homeless	17
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	10
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	12
Negative Combination	17
Stayed the Same	47
Calm/Secure	6
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	40
Witnessed Community Violence	25
Experienced Youth Violence	5
Education (Children Ages 5-17*)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	96
Grade	%
Preschool	1
Kindergarten	8
Grades 1-6	58
Grades 7-12	33
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	68
In Special Education Classes	20
Taunted for Being Homeless	10
Repeated a Grade	12
Changed Schools (in last year)	58
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.6)	%
Once	58
Twice or More	43
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	40
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	40
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	14
Problems Enrolling	30
Stress of Homelessness	29
No Transportation	0
Child Too Tired or Refused	7
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	14

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding of remaining respondents choosing "other."
+ Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
52 Please See Definition of Terms

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 71
Sex	%
Female	93
Male	7
Age (Median: 33)	%
< 25	13
Marital Status	%
Single	65
# of Children (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	24
Two	27
Three or More	49
Education Level	%
< High School	30
Employment	%
Employed	17
Annual Income (Median: $15,132)	
Time Employed	%
> 6 months	17
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.1)	%
One	6
Two or Three	67
Four or More	27
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	35
Family or Friends	20
Welfare Hotel or Motel	10
A Shelter	11
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	4
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	58
Overcrowded/Disagreement	25
Domestic Violence	10
Substandard Housing	2
Transferred From Another Shelter	5
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 4.9)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	55
Twice or More	45
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (at a Period of Homelessness)	%
≥ 2 Years	32
< 2 years	50
Never	18
Currently receiving	%
TANF	37
Food Stamps	76
Medicaid	86
TANF Reduced (in last year)	25
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	33
Put Child In Limbo Care	8
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	16
History of Substance Abuse	74

Seattle, Washington

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 211**
Sex	**%**
Female	48
Male	52
Age (Mean: 7.4)	**%**
< 5 years	32
5-17 years	68
Race/Ethnicity	**%**
African American	35
Asian	2
Latino	9
Native American	1
White	24
# of Times Homeless	**%**
Once	71
Twice or More	30
Health and Nutrition	**%**
Have Asthma	12
Sick More Often Since Homeless	21
Do Not Eat Enough	8
Eat Less Since Homeless	12
Emotional Impact of Homeless	**%**
Angry/Aggressive	12
Fearful/Anxious	8
Depressed/Sad	5
Negative Combination†	29
Stayed the Same	42
Calm/Secure	3
Violence‡‡	**%**
Witnessed Domestic Violence	50
Witnessed Community Violence	19
Experienced Youth Violence	9
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	**%**
Currently Enrolled in School	94
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	7
Grades 1-6	67
Grades 7-12	22
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	54
In Special Education Classes	16
Taunted for Being Homeless	9
Repeated a Grade	16
Changed Schools (in last year)	60
Number of Changes (Mean: 2.1)	%
Once	50
Twice or More	50
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	20
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	38
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	56
Problems Enrolling	5
Stress of Homelessness	12
No Transportation	14
Child Too Tired or Refused	2
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	31

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 86**
Sex	**%**
Female	85
Male	15
Age (Median: 34)	**%**
< 25	14
Marital Status	**%**
Single	77
# of Children (Mean: 3.1)	**%**
One	17
Two	23
Three or More	59
Education Level	**%**
< High School	30
Employment	**%**
Employed	17
Annual Income (Median: $13,988)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	50
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.3)	**%**
One	6
Two or Three	60
Four or More	35
Last Place of Residence	**%**
Own Apartment or House	31
Family or Friends	17
Welfare Hotel or Motel	4
A Shelter	38
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	1
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	**%**
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	24
Overcrowded/Disagreement	13
Domestic Violence	12
Substandard Housing	1
Transferred From Another Shelter	32
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 11.8)	
# of Times Homeless	**%**
Once	63
Twice or More	37
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	35
< 2 years	56
Never	8
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	71
Food Stamps	74
Medicaid	59
TANF Reduced (in last year)	50
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	38
Put Child In Limbo Care	6
Social Indicators	**%**
History of Foster Care as Child	11
History of Substance Abuse	52

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.
‡‡ Please See Definition of Terms

South Bend, Indiana

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 48
Sex	%
Female	46
Male	54
Age (Mean: 6.2)	%
< 5 years	42
5-17 years	58
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	60
Asian	0
Latino	0
Native American	0
White	23
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	73
Twice or More	27
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	13
Sick More Often Since Homeless	27
Do Not Eat Enough	57
Eat Less Since Homeless	40
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	13
Fearful/Anxious	2
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination†	25
Stayed the Same	34
Calm/Secure	21
ViolenceΩ	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	57
Witnessed Community Violence	24
Experienced Youth Violence	4
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	100
Grade	%
Preschool	
Kindergarten	11
Grades 1-6	64
Grades 7-12	18
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	79
In Special Education Classes	15
Taunted for Being Homeless	21
Repeated a Grade	22
Changed Schools (in last year)	74
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.8)	%
Once	56
Twice or More	44
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	0
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	25
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	29
Problems Enrolling	14
Stress of Homelessness	0
No Transportation	29
Child Too Tired or Refused	14
Lack of School Supplies	14
Multiple Reasons	0

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other"
† Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response
Ω Please See Definition of Terms

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 21
Sex	%
Female	100
Male	0
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	30
Marital Status	%
Single	62
# of Children (Mean: 2.7)	%
One	19
Two	29
Three or More	52
Education Level	%
< High School	43
Employment	%
Employed	33
Annual Income (Median: $15,600)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	29
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.9)	%
One	5
Two or Three	76
Four or More	19
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	38
Family or Friends	43
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	10
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	5
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	5
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	33
Overcrowded/Disagreement	24
Domestic Violence	5
Substandard Housing	5
Transferred From Another Shelter	5
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 5.0)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	71
Twice or More	29
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	25
< 2 years	63
Never	13
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	67
Food Stamps	86
Medicaid	76
TANF Reduced (in last year)	69
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	0
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	19
History of Substance Abuse	71

St. Louis, Missouri

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 286**
Sex	%
Female	48
Male	53
Age (Mean: 6.6)	%
< 5 years	40
5-17 years	60
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	93
Asian	0
Latino	0
Native American	0
White	2
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	78
Twice or More	22
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	18
Sick More Often Since Homeless	16
Do Not Eat Enough	10
Eat Less Since Homeless	16
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	9
Fearful/Anxious	5
Depressed/Sad	9
Negative Combination	16
Stayed the Same	53
Calm/Secure	8
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	38
Witnessed Community Violence	21
Experienced Youth Violence	4
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	97
Grade	%
Preschool	5
Kindergarten	15
Grades 1-6	55
Grades 7-12	27
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	76
In Special Education Classes	13
Taunted for Being Homeless	23
Repeated a Grade	28
Changed Schools (in last year)	38
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.4)	%
Once	65
Twice or More	35
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	10
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	30
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	42
Problems Enrolling	25
Stress of Homelessness	8
No Transportation	8
Child Too Tired or Refused	8
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	8

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 126**
Sex	%
Female	99
Male	1
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	59
Marital Status	%
Single	94
# of Children (Mean: 3.0)	%
One	21
Two	34
Three or More	45
Education Level	%
< High School	46
Employment	%
Employed	26
Annual Income (Median: $12,896)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	57
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	12
Two or Three	74
Four or More	14
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	30
Family or Friends	35
Welfare Hotel or Motel	0
A Shelter	33
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	1
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	15
Overcrowded/Disagreement	20
Domestic Violence	8
Substandard Housing	8
Transferred From Another Shelter	25
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 10.9)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	62
Twice or More	38
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	40
< 2 years	45
Never	15
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	63
Food Stamps	72
Medicaid	82
TANF Reduced (in last year)	39
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	9
Put Child In Limbo Care	9
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	14
History of Substance Abuse	41

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other"
1 Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response
SI Please See Definition of Terms

Trenton, New Jersey

Homeless Child Demographics	N= 191
Sex	%
Female	48
Male	52
Age (Mean: 6.4)	%
< 5 years	43
5-17 years	57
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	80
Asian	0
Latino	6
Native American	0
White	5
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	77
Twice or More	23
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	25
Sick More Often Since Homeless	17
Do Not Eat Enough	29
Eat Less Since Homeless	20
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	10
Fearful/Anxious	5
Depressed/Sad	12
Negative Combination	8
Stayed the Same	53
Calm/Secure	13
Violence[Ω]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	42
Witnessed Community Violence	10
Experienced Youth Violence	4
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	89
Grade	%
Preschool	4
Kindergarten	13
Grades 1-6	60
Grades 7-12	23
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	74
In Special Education Classes	17
Taunted for Being Homeless	11
Repeated a Grade	18
Changed Schools (in last year)	22
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.2)	%
Once	81
Twice or More	19
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	12
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	26
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	41
Problems Enrolling	14
Stress of Homelessness	14
No Transportation	14
Child Too Tired or Refused	18
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	0

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other."
** Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response.*
Ω Please See Definition of Terms.

Homeless Parent Demographics	N= 80
Sex	%
Female	95
Male	5
Age (Median: 29)	%
< 25	32
Marital Status	%
Single	93
# of Children (Mean: 2.6)	%
One	23
Two	26
Three or More	51
Education Level	%
< High School	43
Employment	%
Employed	32
Annual Income (Median: $10,920)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 months	40
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 2.5)	%
One	14
Two or Three	70
Four or More	16
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	42
Family or Friends	39
Welfare Hotel or Motel	14
A Shelter	4
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	0
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	0
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	40
Overcrowded/Disagreement	26
Domestic Violence	5
Substandard Housing	3
Transferred From Another Shelter	5
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 8.5)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	62
Twice or More	38
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	30
< 2 years	59
Never	12
Currently receiving:	%
TANF	65
Food Stamps	63
Medicaid	60
TANF Reduced (in last year)	47
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	9
Put Child In Limbo Care	3
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	15
History of Substance Abuse	40

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Homeless Child Demographics	**N= 160**
Sex	%
Female	44
Male	56
Age (Mean: 6.8)	%
< 5 years	39
5-17 years	61
Race/Ethnicity	%
African American	36
Asian	1
Latino	1
Native American	10
White	48
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	66
Twice or More	34
Health and Nutrition	%
Have Asthma	16
Sick More Often Since Homeless	19
Do Not Eat Enough	17
Eat Less Since Homeless	25
Emotional Impact of Homeless	%
Angry/Aggressive	10
Fearful/Anxious	11
Depressed/Sad	6
Negative Combination	9
Stayed the Same	58
Calm/Secure	6
Violence[1]	%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	59
Witnessed Community Violence	16
Experienced Youth Violence	8
Education (Children Ages 5-17)	%
Currently Enrolled in School	78
Grade	%
Preschool	3
Kindergarten	5
Grades 1-6	73
Grades 7-12	21
	%
Attended Preschool or Head Start	58
In Special Education Classes	18
Taunted for Being Homeless	6
Repeated a Grade	80
Changed Schools (in last year)	80
Number of Changes (Mean: 1.5)	%
Once	65
Twice or More	35
	%
Missed > 4 Weeks of School (in last year)	32
Missed > 2 Weeks of School (in last year)	55
Reason for Missing School	%
Illness	15
Problems Enrolling	10
Stress of Homelessness	10
No Transportation	*
Child Too Tired or Refused	2
Lack of School Supplies	0
Multiple Reasons	20

Homeless Parent Demographics	**N= 71**
Sex	%
Female	89
Male	11
Age (Median: 31)	%
< 25	31
Marital Status	%
Single	72
# of Children (Mean: 3.0)	%
One	11
Two	41
Three or More	48
Education Level	%
< High School	32
Employment	%
Employed	23
Annual Income (Median: $12,988)	
Time Employed	%
≥ 6 mo.	[illegible]
# of Residences (in last year) (Mean: 3.5)	%
One	0
Two or Three	67
Four or More	33
Last Place of Residence	%
Own Apartment or House	44
Family or Friends	32
Welfare Hotel or Motel	1
A Shelter	17
Shack/Shanty/Trailer	1
Abandoned Building/Street/Car/Campground	1
Reason Left Last Residence	%
Couldn't Pay Rent/Evicted	28
Overcrowded/Disagreement	20
Domestic Violence	28
Substandard Housing	1
Transferred From Another Shelter	6
Length of Time Homeless (in months) (Mean: 4.1)	
# of Times Homeless	%
Once	53
Twice or More	47
Public Assistance History	
Length of Time on TANF (as a head of household)	%
≥ 2 Years	19
< 2 years	51
Never	30
Currently receiving	%
TANF	26
Food Stamps	66
Medicaid	57
TANF Reduced (in last year)	25
Impacts of Reductions	%
Became Homeless	14
Put Child In Limbo Care	0
Social Indicators	%
History of Foster Care as Child	16
History of Substance Abuse	51

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding or remaining respondents choosing "other"
** Negative Combination indicates respondents chose more than one negative response*
§§ Please See Definition of Terms

Methods & Definition of Terms

This study was conducted in the winter and spring of 1999 in cooperation with nearly 200 organizations in more than twenty locations. In all, 1,904 homeless parents were surveyed. For the purpose of this study, only data on "homeless children"—those currently living with their homeless parent or guardian, or those living elsewhere because of shelter regulations or parents' refusal to bring children to shelter—was analyzed.

Families were drawn primarily from emergency and transitional shelters. Other families not living in shelters that were surveyed were those receiving services from community organizations that provide non-residential services to homeless families, or those identified as eligible for homeless services. As a result, the children and families not receiving any services, those who are perhaps the worst off, may have been omitted from this study.

This list of terms and definitions is provided to clarify issues of discussion. Many of these definitions can and should be read as footnotes to the tables and figures presented in this report.

Community Violence: Community Violence was defined in this study as a stabbing, shooting, rape, or murder in the community.

Domestic Violence: The strict definition of this term indicates abuse, verbal or physical, by a spouse or partner (See Family Violence).

Doubled- or Tripled-Up: Doubled or Tripled Up refers to families that share a household with at least one other family. These arrangements are generally temporary as they are frequently accompanied by severe crowding.

Emergency Shelter: The majority of emergency shelters offer individuals or families a place to stay for a few days to a few weeks until they find alternate accommodations.

Fair Market Rent: Fair Market Rents are estimates used by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and include utilities.

Family: Family in this report refers to at least one adult with one or more children under the age of eighteen in their care.

Family Violence: Family Violence expands on the definition of domestic violence to include violence by any family member.

Food Stamps: The Food Stamp Program is a federal program that provides monthly coupons to eligible low income individuals and families which can be used to purchase food.

Grade-schoolers: Grade schoolers in this study refers to children between the ages of five and twelve.

High School Graduate: Unless otherwise noted, this category includes individuals who received a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

Homeless: For the purposes of this study, homeless individuals are those living in shelters, severely substandard housing, or temporarily doubled- or tripled-up.

Hunger: Children are considered hungry when parents report that they do not eat enough.

Low Birthweight: Children born with low birthweight weigh less than 5.8 lbs.

Married: Married in this study includes common law marriage.

Metropolitan Area: Metropolitan Area refers to a Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the census bureau, which includes a larger city surrounded by smaller cities or towns whose economies and populations are interdependent.

Number of Homeless Families: The number of homeless families in each city studied refers to the city's estimated number needing or residing in emergency or transitional housing. The number in or needing supportive or permanent housing could not be used due to variation in definition between cities. Calculations were occasionally necessary to provide data comparable between cities.

Poor Attendance: Children are said to have poor attendance if they have missed more than two weeks of school.

Preschool-aged: Preschool age in this study refers to children aged three and four.

School-aged: School age in this study refers to children between the ages of five and seventeen.

Section 8: Section 8 is a federal housing subsidy for low income renters. The subsidy covers the difference between thirty percent of tenant income and the fair market rent for comparable existing units in the metropolitan area or non-metropolitan county (Certificate) or covers the difference between thirty percent of income and the "payment standard" (Voucher) *(National Low Income Housing Coalition)*.

Special Education: For the purposes of this study, parents self-defined special education. Their definitions may vary based on geographical differences in classifying special education.

Supportive Services: Any service contributing to the well-being of individuals or families including health care, food provision, family/domestic violence, mental health or substance abuse counseling, housing placement, parent or child education, job training or placement.

TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families): TANF replaced AFDC in 1996, transferring welfare program decisions to the state level and implementing new work requirements and time limits. While states have some freedom in designing their welfare programs, federal moneys (the source of the majority of welfare payments) may not go toward providing welfare payments to families for longer than five years, and states have the option of setting limits as short as two years.

Teen: Teens in this study are between the ages of thirteen and seventeen.

Transitional Shelter or Housing: Most transitional facilities offer longer-term shelter for families—from one month to over one year—until they find permanent housing. Support services such as counseling, housing placement, or education programs frequently are provided on-site or via referral to assist residents in their move to stability.

Undereducated: Parents are considered undereducated if they have no high school diploma or GED.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC is a Federal grant program which provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education and counseling, and nutrition screening and referrals to other health, welfare, and social services to low-income pregnant women, mothers, and their infants and or young children.

Worst Case Housing Needs: Households with worst case housing needs earn less than fifty percent of the area median income and either pay over half their income in rent, live in severely substandard housing or both. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, families who pay more than thirty percent of their income in rent and make less than thirty percent of the area median income are at risk of homelessness. Families with worst case housing needs are thus at severe risk of becoming homeless.

Youth Violence: Youth Violence is described as being threatened or hurt by another child or teen with a weapon such as a gun or a knife.

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Thank You!
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Thanks to Our Partners

Special Thanks To Our Regional Coordinators:

Ms. Sally Whitehead
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Atlanta, Georgia

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Tulsa, Oklahoma

Ms. Jennifer Poplin
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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Achor Center • Atlanta Children's Shelter • Boulevard House • Cobb Family Resources • International Christian World • Jerusalem House • Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless • Moreland Avenue Night Shelter • My Sister's House • Nicholas House

Baltimore
ACTS, Inc. • Christ Lutheran • Dayspring Community Housing • Department of Social Services/Homeless Environmental Service Unit • Family Crisis Center • Health House • Hearth House, Inc. • House of Ruth • INNterim House • Karis Home • Marian House, Inc. • My Sister's Place • PACT's Therapeutic Nursery • Phoenix Place • Reistertown Shelter • Salvation Army Booth House • YWCA of Baltimore

Bucks County
American Red Cross Homeless Shelter • Bucks County Housing Group • EQPP • Morrisville Shelter • A Woman's Place •

Dallas/Ft. Worth
Family Gateway Center • Ft. Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter • Housing Crisis Center • Plus Care Program • Salvation Army-Carr P. Collins Social Service Center • Shared Housing • West Dallas Shelter

Denver
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless • Fort Logan Family Overflow • Gathering Place • Jeffco Human Services • Metro Care Ring • SafeHouse Denver • Samaritan House • Volunteers of America

Los Angeles
Beyond Shelter • Chernow House • Gramercy Court • Harbor Interfaith Shelter • Los Angeles Family Housing Corporation • North Facility • Sydney M. Ermis Transitional Living Center

Louisiana
Calcasieu Women's Shelter, Lake Charles • Faith House, Lafayette • Family House, Lafayette • Lafayette Parish School Board • Maison de Mere, Lafayette • New Life Center, Opelousas • Potter's House, Lake Charles • Safety Net for Abused Persons, New Iberia • St. Mary Community Action Agency, Franklin • The Well/Naomi House, Lafayette • Welcome House, Maxie

Maryland
Domestic Violence Center, Howard County • Family Emergency Shelter, Langley Park • Grassroots Shelter, Howard County • Greentree Shelter, Montgomery County • Miles House, Ellicot County • Project Echo, Inc., Calvert County • Safe Harbor, Calvert County • Shepherd's Cove Shelter, Prince George County • Stepping Stones Shelter, Montgomery County

Memphis
Alpha Omega Veterans Service • Calvary Street Ministry • CSA Homeless Program • Estival Communities • Family Service of the Mid-South • Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational and Cultural Center • Memphis Family Shelter • Memphis Interfaith Hospitality Network • Memphis Union Mission • Metropolitan Interfaith Association • Moriah House • Salvation Army Family Shelter

Miami
Emergency Housing Florida City • HAC • Naranja Cottages • Salvation Army

Nevada
Carson High School, Carson City • Carson Middle School, Carson City • Clark County School District Homeless Education Program • Empere School, Carson City • Faith House Shelter, Reno • Friend/Family, Las Vegas • Fritsch School • Gleasen Elementary School, Carson City • Kids Korner • Homeless Education Program of Southside Elementary School, Elko • Homeless Education Program of Washoe County School District • Homeless Education Program of West Wendover School District • Interfaith Hospitality Network, Las Vegas • M.A.S.H. Village, Las Vegas • Restart Family Center, Reno • Seeliger, Carson City • Shadetree, Las Vegas • Warner Elementary School, Reno

New Orleans
Armstrong, Inc. • Barrone Street Transitional Shelter • Care Center • Chester School • Community Christian Concern, Inc. • Covenant House • Crescent House • Edwards School • Family Advocacy, Care and Education Services • Guste School • Health Care for the Homeless • Hope House • House of Ruth • Infinity Project • Multi-Service Center for the Homeless • Odyssey House • Salvation Army Center of Hope

Newark
The Apostle's House • Goodwill Industries • Harmony House • St. Ann's Family Emergency Residence • St. Rocco's Family Center • United Catholic Community

Norman
East Main Place • Food and Shelter for Friends • Norman Shelter for Battered Women • Salvation Army

Philadelphia
ACTS II, Woodstock • Christian Tabernacle Housing • One Day At A Time Shelter • Salvation Army Red Shield Family Residence • Stenton Family Manor

Phoenix
Chrysalis Shelter • Salvation Army Family Shelter • Sunnyslope Family Services Center • United Methodist Outreach Ministries • Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter • Winter Overflow Shelter Program at Watkins • YWCA of Maricopa County

Richmond
Caritas Family Focus Program • Emergency Shelter, Inc. • Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelter • YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter/Battered Women's Shelter

St. Louis
Almost Home, Inc. • Christian Service Center, Inc. • Family Haven • Good Samaritan Service Center for the Homeless • The Haven of Grace • Karen Catholic Worker House • The Olive Branch • Our Lady's Inn • Salvation Army • St. Louis Transitional Hope House • St. Martha's Hall • Temple Corporation

Salem/Eugene
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